



MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT  
**MANUEL ROXAS**  
1946-1948

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Official Month in Review

## **President's Month in Review: May, 1946**

### **OG Vol. 42 No. 5**

#### **(May 1946)**

Historical event of the month was the inauguration of Manuel A. Roxas and Elpidio Quirino as President and Vice President of the Philippines, respectively. Witnessed by thousands of people, the inaugural ceremonies were held on the morning of May 28 at the grounds of the former Legislative Building on P. Burgos Avenue. In the grandstand were, besides the President and Vice President, Mrs. Roxas and the President's mother, United States High Commissioner to the Philippines and Mrs. Paul V. McNutt, members of the High Commissioner's staff, Lieutenant General W. D. Styler, Commanding General of the United States Army Forces in the Western Pacific, Rear Admiral H. H. Good, Commander of the Sea Frontier, former Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison, Senate President Jose Avelino, Speaker Eugenio Perez of the House of Representatives, members of the Cabinet, Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, members of the Insular corps, and high ranking officials.

Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran of the Supreme Court of the Philippines administered the oath of office. Archbishop Gabriel Reyes read the invocation. The ceremonies started with the presentation of the Philippine and American flags and ended with a civic and military parade.

Highlight of the event was President Roxas' inaugural address in which he urged the Filipino people "to move forward without pause to bind up this nation's wounds, to toil, to make and to build." He said that he did not mean "unduly to dramatize our ills," but pointed out that economy had been ruined and that tremendous tasks lay ahead. Broadly outlining his domestic and foreign policies, the President advocated closer adherence to the United States than to the United Nations as "we can much more securely repose our fate in the understanding and comradeship which exist between the Philippines and the United States than in the hope of an international morality which, however desirable, is still today in the process of development."

On the eve of his inauguration the President appointed the following members of his Cabinet:

Vice President Elpidio Quirino as Secretary of Finance and senior member of the Cabinet.

Jose Zulueta as Secretary of the Interior.

Roman Ozaeta as Secretary of Justice.

Mariano Garchitorena as Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce.

Ricardo Nepomuceno as Secretary of Public Works and Communications.

Dr. Manuel Gallego as Secretary of Public Instruction.

Dr. Antonio Villarama as Secretary of Health and Public Welfare.

Pedro Magsalin as Secretary of Labor.

Ruperto Kangleon as Secretary of National Defense.

Emilio Abello as Secretary of the Executive Bureau.

The Commission on Appointments of the Congress of the Philippines on May 28 confirmed the appointments.

The President on May 29, his first day in office, made a surprise tour of the waterfront and then took the necessary steps to relieve congestion in the port of Manila. He created a committee to investigate the situation and submit recommendations to him. Appointed to form the committee were Commander "Chick" Parsons, former Collector of Customs Alfredo de Leon, Vicente Fragante, Major Enrique Razon, L.P. Jepson, of the American President Lines, Manuel Elizalde and Toribio Teodoro.

The President also:

1. Issued on May 28 a Proclamation (No.39) declaring Thursday, May 30, 1946 Philippine-American Memorial Day.
2. Issued on May 30 an Executive Order (No.110) restoring usual morning and afternoon office hours in all government offices beginning June 1.

United States High Commissioner to the Philippines Paul V. McNutt and President Roxas on the afternoon of May 8 enplaned for the United States on a joint mission to take up with President Harry S Truman, Washington officials, and congressional leaders matters vital to the Philippines. In connection with this mission President Truman days before had extended to President Roxas, through High Commissioner McNutt, an invitation to be the guest of the United States at Blair-Lee House in Washington D.C., just across from the White House.

On their arrival at Bolling Field, outside Washington, on May 10, High Commissioner McNutt and President Roxas were greeted by high officials, military officers and personal friends, including United States undersecretary of the Interior Oscar L. Chapman, President Truman's special representative, John Carter Vincent, Frank P. Lockhart and Stanley Woodward, of the United States Department of State, Brigadier General Burton M. Hovey, Bolling Field Commandant Colonel Steven L. Mellnick, who acted as President Roxas' military aide during his stay in Washington, Philippines Resident Commissioner in Washington Carlos P. Romulo, and President Roxas' daughter Ruby, a student at Vassar College, New York.

The next day High Commissioner McNutt and President Roxas met President Truman at the White House. Following the meeting President Truman issued a statement saying that he was happy to have met the newly-elected President of the Philippines who "will have, as President Osmeña had, the full and heartfelt cooperation of the United States government in many mutual concerns of Philippine-American relations." In a radio speech over a national hookup of the Columbia Broadcasting System on the same day, President Roxas explained to the American people the problems facing the Philippines. He emphasized that the Filipinos were not asking for a gratuity. "We have asked," he said, "and are asking only for an opportunity to help ourselves. We must have food. We must have funds with which to finance the activities of government, to provide for restoration of law and order, the encouragement of production, and the beginning of a program of social reform." At a press conference on May 12 President Roxas made it clear that the Philippine ship of state, on its own in world waters, would sail parallel and close to the United States foreign policy line. There could be no doubt, according to him, that "relations with the United States are and will always be the keystone of our foreign policy and our national political economy.

The President's major effort during his brief stay in Washington, D.C. was directed at securing two large loans, one to meet the government expenses over a five-year period, and another to make recent rehabilitation legislation workable. Negotiations for both loans were undertaken by him with President Truman, United States Secretary of the Treasury Fred M. Vinson, United States Acting Secretary of State Dean C. Acheson, congressional leaders, and directors of the Export-Import Bank.

Other matters taken up by High Commissioner McNutt and President Roxas in Washington, according to a joint report issued by them on their return to Manila by plane on May 21, included:

Tentative arrangements for (1) the printing of a new currency issue for the independent Philippine Republic by the United States printing and engraving bureau; (2) post-independence relationship between the peso and the dollar; (3) settlement of fiscal balances held by the United States Treasury for the account of the Philippine Government; (4) the establishment of embassies in Manila and Washington; (5) representation of Philippine interests abroad by

United States diplomatic establishments after July 4 pending permanent creation of diplomatic and consular offices by the Philippine Government; (6) the transfer of the late President Quezon's remains from Arlington National Cemetery to the Philippines; and (7) continued training of Filipinos for consular and diplomatic service.

Discussions on (1) the form and content of the executive agreement called for under the terms of the Philippine Trade Rehabilitation Act ; (2) the content of treaties which must be negotiated between the Philippine and the American governments; (3) the acquisition by the Philippines of surplus property now held in the United States; (4) the proposed exchange with Siam of trucks for rice; (5) the status of Filipinos in the United States after independence; and (6) legislation granting immigration quota to the Philippines and providing for naturalization rights in the United States for Filipinos.

The day following his arrival from the United States, President Roxas conferred with President Osmeña at Malacañan. After the conference Messrs. Roxas and Osmeña issued a joint statement urging acceptance by the Filipino people of the Bell Trade Act and the Tydings War Damage Act. They said that while they had definite objections to some provisions of the acts, "the wisest and most expedient course which the Philippine Government and the Filipino people can adopt at the present time is to accept these measures as soon as practicable," while reserving the right to request later the Congress of the United States for their modification.

Speaking at the Philippine-American Memorial Day services held on the morning of May 30 at the gymnasium of the Santo Tomas University, High Commissioner McNutt declared that prejudices and barriers built on race must be swept aside forever. "Philippine-American unity," he said, "can be built only on sincere friendship and equality. The doctrine of racial superiority is abhorrent to us in theory. It must be obliterated in practice." High Commissioner McNutt also paid homage to those who have died in battle for America and the Philippines. "Theirs," he said, "is an immortality which will not grow vague with time, but will deepen in its significance as we learn to appreciate not only the sacrifices they made, but the gift of life they gave us in yielding theirs." He added: "They won for us a world of freedom, a world of opportunity, a world in which the voice of the lowly may be heard along with the voice of the proud."

A big crowd of Americans and Filipinos attended the Memorial Day program. Special guests for the occasion were headed by President Roxas.

Senator Jose Avelino and Representative Eugenio Perez were chosen President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively, at the opening session of the Congress of the Philippines on May 25.

Arrivals in Manila during the month included:

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Chief-of-Staff of the United States Army, by plane on the morning of May 4, in the course of the tour of American Military bases in the Pacific.

Former Governor-General Francis Burton Harrison, by boat from the United States on May 20, to attend the inauguration of the Philippine Republic on July 4.

## **President's Month in Review: June, 1946**

### **OG Vol. 42 No.6**

#### **(June 1946)**

Twice during the month President Manuel Roxas appeared before a joint session of the Second Congress of the Philippines, first on June 3 to deliver a message on the state of the nation, and again June 21 to urge the acceptance by Congress of the Philippine Rehabilitation Act and the Philippine Trade Act, both passed by the Congress of the United States on April 30, 1946.

In his message on the state of the nation, the President, after briefly describing the aspect of the intricate problems which the Philippines faces today, particularly the lack of financial means both to support the government's functions and to carry out the projects in rehabilitation and economic development, discussed some of the subjects taken up by him in Washington D.C., last May, including the government loan of approximately 800 million pesos to be lent to the Philippines in five yearly installments. Then he made his recommendations for the prompt and efficient solution of the major problems confronting the nation. Concluding the President said: "I know that in the tasks I have outlined, this congress, this representative body of the Filipino people, will be equal to its responsibilities. I am sure that you will discharge your duties in the best and highest traditions of the long line of great Philippine representative bodies."

Speaking of the two pieces of American legislation before Congress on June 21, the President said that the acts provide the pattern of United States aid for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Philippine national economy. "Without this assistance," he declared, "we are faced immediately by disaster. Without the helping hand thus extended to us, I do not believe we can survive." The Chief Executive analyzed the most important provisions of both measures and answered arguments and attacks against them. He also enumerated the benefits to be derived from the two laws. In asking congress to accept the Executive Agreement which, in accordance with the provisions of the Trade Act, is to be negotiated by the President of the United States with the President of the Philippines, President Roxas declared that Congress has never been asked to deliberate upon a more vital matter. "I need not ask," he said, "the gentlemen of the Congress to lay politics and political expediency aside. I know that regardless of party or faction everyone of you recognizes his heavy responsibility. I ask merely that you examine all the facts and make your decisions accordingly. My recommendations are well known by now. I propose that you approve the Executive Agreement that I will soon transmit to you. It is my considered judgment that to do otherwise would be to invite economic and finally political catastrophe."

In a press conference on June 14 the President announced that he had reached full and complete agreement with United States High Commissioner to the Philippines Paul V. McNutt on a new Philippine Property Bill which will be introduced simultaneously in the United States Senate by Senator Millard E. Tydings and in the United States House of Representatives by Congressman C. Jasper Bell. This Bill is a substitute for, and an improvement upon, the former bill authored by the two legislators, and unlike the latter does not amend the Philippine Independence Act. Chief provision of the new bill is the transfer to the Philippine government, for nominal consideration and immediately upon passage of the bill, of all former enemy lands and property now held by the Alien Property Custodian.

The new bill, according to the President, provides for the orderly conduct of United States rehabilitation operations in the Philippines after independence. It also safeguards the rights and legitimate interests of the Philippines and does not involve any concessions on the latter's part.

The President on June 8 submitted to the Congress of the Philippines the government budget for the 1946-47 fiscal year commencing July 1, carrying a total of P253,752,788. The budget was accompanied by a message from the President explaining its general make-up and discussing the two loans sought by the Philippines from the United States government and the United States Export-Import Bank. Part of these loans, according to the message, will be used to cover an expected deficit of around P247,000,000 at the end of the fiscal year.

To forestall famine and starvation in the Philippines, the President on June 17 issued an Administrative Order (42) directing an intensified nation-wide food production campaign under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture and Commerce. General Manager of the campaign shall be the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce. Provincial Governors and city and municipal mayors shall act as his deputies.

In connection with this campaign, the President the day before set an example for the whole nation to follow by personally breaking the ground and planting vegetables in a garden plot in Malacañan.

The President on June 7 also sent an urgent message to Philippine Resident Commissioner Carlos P. Romulo in Washington D.C., instructing him to secure the maximum possible aid for the Philippines from the United States Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. "The entire nation," the message read, "faces dire conditions during the next six months unless help arrives." The president informed Commissioner Romulo that he had obtained the support of High Commissioner McNutt for a grant of at least P110,000,000 from the UNRRA, but that every effort was to be exerted to obtain the full amount of P200,000,000 requested by the Philippine government.

Two commissions and several committees were created by the President during the month. By Administrative Order (No. 36) the President on June 3 created a Tax Commission composed of eleven members for the purpose of effecting a revision of the tax system of the Philippines. The President considers this revision necessary in order to meet the increasing expenditures of the Government for vital and urgent needs, to distribute the tax burden more nearly on the basis of ability to pay, to encourage the development of industries, to promote the foreign trade, and to facilitate the achievement of essential social objectives. By another Administrative Order (No. 38) the President on June 4 created an Agrarian Commission composed of Faustino Aguilar as Chairman, and Eduardo Cojuanco, Quirino Abad Santos, Buenaventura Lopez, Deogracias E. Lerma, Aurelio Quitariano, Fausto Gonzales-Sioco, Norberto Maniquis, Felipe Jose, Jose B. Santos and Guillermo E. Espino as members. It shall be the duty of the Commission to find ways and means for the permanent solution of the recurring landlord-tenant conflicts in the agrarian regions of the Philippines.

The President also created :

1. A Philippine Committee of Food and Agriculture to act as the national liaison to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. (Administrative Order No. 41).
2. A Committee to take charge of the arrangements for the reception of the mortal remains of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, and the holding of a state funeral subsequent thereto. (Administrative Order No. 40).
3. Three separate Committees to investigate the business affairs and the operations of the National Development Company, the Philippine Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, the Government Procurement Commission, and the Petroleum Products Control Administration. (Administrative Order No. 39).

Appointments made by the President during the month included the following :

Jose Hontiveros, Sabino Padilla, and Pedro Tuazon as Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

Eusebio M. Lopez as Associate Judge of the People's Court.

Crispin Llamado as Undersecretary of Finance.

Prudencio Langcauon as Undersecretary of Instruction.

Pio Pedrosa as Commissioner of the Budget.

Bernabe Africa as Commissioner of Foreign Relations.

Jose Gil as Commissioner of the Civil Service.

Alfredo de Leon as Insular Collector of Customs.

Bibiano L. Meer as Collector of Internal Revenue.

Valeriano E. Fugoso as Mayor of the City of Manila.

In a speech delivered in Tagalog at Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, on the occasion of the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of independence and the proclamation of the Philippine Republic, the President declared that the intimate and unselfish cooperation between the United States and the Philippines “has no parallel in history and is the inspiration of subject peoples in many lands.” “On the part of the United States,” he said, “there was shown the purest altruism and disinterest, and on our part, undivided loyalty, and eagerness to learn and work for the attainment of common aims and purposes.”

The President also paid tribute to the veterans of the Revolution, both living and dead. “You have taught us to fight,” he said, “to die for freedom. You have proven to us that liberty is more precious than life itself. You have shown us, by brilliant example, that it is the duty of those who survive the struggles of war to live for their country as valiantly and courageously as those who die. You have shown to us the example of unstinted service and sacrifice for the nation’s good.”

“When Rizal said that a people have the government that they deserve, he expressed the essence of the democratic principle,” declared President Roxas in a statement issued on the eve of the 85<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal, June 19. “The people,” he added, “can have the government that they want. But their will must be expressed in accordance with the processes established by law—peacefully and not through violence.”

Rizal’s birthday anniversary this year, according to the President, becomes all the more significant with the final realization on July 4 of the ideal for which the Filipino hero so willingly gave his life.

High Commissioner McNutt was appointed by the United States President Harry S. Truman first United States Ambassador to the Philippine Republic. The United States Senate on June 20 unanimously confirmed the appointment.

As commencement speaker at the University of the Philippines on June 4, High Commissioner McNutt urged the Filipino youth to Filipinize their country. “You have been given,” he said, “your institutions, your language and your way of government. You must apply your native genius to Filipinize them. Develop further your national spirit, not in the sense of pride but in the sense of contribution to the world’s store of culture.”

Speaking of a national language for the Philippines, the High Commissioner advised that the American language be Filipinized too “as America had done with English.” He added: “Today there is an American tongue which is clearly distinct from the English spoken in England. You can do the same with the American.”

President and Mrs. Roxas on June 6 honored High Commissioner and Mrs. McNutt with a dinner at Malacañan. The guests included the Vice President, members of the Cabinet, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the commanding General of the American Forces in the Western Pacific, and the Commanding Admiral of the Philippine Sea Frontier.

Under instruction from President Roxas to consult with the United States War Department on the proposed transfer to the Philippine government of supplies and equipment for the maintenance and training of the Philippine Army after July 4, a military mission headed by Colonel Calixto Duque, Deputy Chief-of-Staff of the Philippine Army, enplaned for Washington, D.C., on June 17. Other members of the mission were Colonel Bernardino Jardeleza and Major Lorenzo Camins, both of the Finance Service, Philippine Army.





## **President's Month in Review: July, 1946**

### **OG Vol. 42 No. 7**

#### **(July 1946)**

July 4 marked the birth of the Philippine Republic and the end of 48 years of American sovereignty on Philippine soil. At history-making ceremonies held on the morning of that day at the Luneta, United States High Commissioner to the Philippines Paul V. McNutt, representing United States President Harry S Truman, proclaimed Philippine Independence and hauled down the American flag.

“The flag which was first raised in conquest here has been hauled down with even greater glory,” declared President Roxas in his speech after taking his oath of office as the first President of the Philippine Republic. “The Stars and Stripes will no longer fly over this land, but in the hearts of 18,000,000 Filipinos and in the eyes of many millions more in this part of the world the American flag flies more triumphantly today than ever before in history.”

The President's address was preceded by those of Senator Millard E. Tydings, senior senator from Maryland and author of the Philippine Independence Act and other measures concerning the Philippines; General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, defender and liberator of the Philippines; and High Commissioner McNutt. Senator Tydings said that with the beginning of the Republic of the Philippines, “a new example of human justice, human dignity and friendly relations between great peoples will have been established and an entirely new concept of international relationship will have been given to all mankind.”

“Let history,” declared General MacArthur in his speech, “record this event in the sweep of democracy through the earth as foretelling the end of mastery over peoples by power of force alone—the end of empire as the political chain which binds the unwilling weak to the unyielding strong. Let it be recorded as one of the great turning points in the advance of civilization in the age-long struggle of man for liberty, for dignity, and for human betterment.”

High Commissioner McNutt declared that the United States has here discharged a titanic obligation and its reward is equally magnificent, “the respect, friendship and devotion of the millions of freemen here and the admiration of the rest of world.” After reading President Truman's Proclamation withdrawing and surrendering “all rights of possession, supervision, jurisdiction, control and sovereignty now existing and exercised by the United States of America in and over the territory and people of the Philippines,” the High Commissioner said: “A nation is born. Long live the Republic of the Philippines! May God bless and prosper the Filipino people, keep them safe and free.”

The ceremonies were highlighted by the lowering of the American flag and the raising of the Philippine emblem immediately after the proclamation of independence. Standing side by side on the grandstand, High Commissioner McNutt and President Roxas each hauled on a halyard at an even pace, the first bringing down the Stars and Stripes and the second raising the Philippine tricolor. This act was followed by the induction into office of President Roxas and Vice President Elpidio Quirino, the President's speech, and the signing of the treaty of General Relations Between the United States of America and the Philippine Republic by High Commissioner McNutt and President Roxas. The ceremonies ended with a military and civic parade.

A throng of approximately 200,000 people attended the historical event. On the grandstand were around 3,000 guests and notables, including delegates and representatives of some 25 nations all over the world headed by the United States, England, China and France.

The day's festivities closed with a tree-planting ceremony on the grounds of the City Hall at which Mrs. Roxas, Mrs. Paul McNutt, and Mrs. Douglas MacArthur officiated; a state dinner, reception and ball given by President and Mrs. Roxas at Malacañan; and a fireworks display at the Luneta.

Ambassador Paul V. McNutt on the afternoon of July 4 called at Malacañan to present his credentials to President Roxas. In receiving the first United States ambassador to the Philippine Republic, President Roxas declared that the Philippines and America “will be united by unbreakable bonds of mutual respect and affection—bonds forged in a common struggle in peace and in war for the greater happiness and welfare of our two peoples.”

Later on the same afternoon President Roxas and Ambassador McNutt signed the Executive Agreement required under the Philippine Trade Act of 1946, as well as a provisional treaty of diplomatic and general relations to be in force until the exchange of ratification papers on the Treaty of General Relations signed at the independence ceremonies is effected. Present at the signing were Minister Nathaniel Davis, Senator Tydings, Congressman C. Jasper Bell, Vice President Quirino, former Resident Commissioner Carlos P. Romulo, and members of the Cabinet.

At a military ceremony held on the grounds of Malacañan on the afternoon of July 6, President Roxas awarded the Distinguished Star of the Philippines to Ambassador McNutt; Rear Admiral H. H. Good, Commander of the Philippine Sea Frontier; Brigadier General E. J. McGaw, Assistant Chief-of-Staff , G-3, of the American Forces in the Western Pacific; and Commander Julius Ceasar Claude Edelstein, public relations adviser and naval aide to Ambassador McNutt. They were all cited for eminently meritorious, distinguished and valuable services to the Philippine Government and the Philippine Army.

President Roxas himself pinned the medals after the citations had been read.

Appointments made by the President soon after the proclamation of the Philippine Republic include the following:

Joaquin M. Elizalde as Philippine Ambassador to the United States.

Carlos P. Romulo as Philippine Delegate to the United Nations Organization with the rank of Ambassador.

Vice-President Elpidio Quirino as Secretary of Foreign Affairs.

Colonel Lamberto T. Jabalera as Chief of Police of the City of Manila.

By Executive Order (No. 5) the President on July 12 created a Council of State to advise the Chief Executive on such matters of public policy as he may lay before it. The Council shall consist of the Vice President of the Philippines, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Heads of the Executive Departments, the Chief of the Executive Office, the Commissioner of the Budget, the President pro- tempore of the Senate, the Floor Leader of the Senate, the Floor Leader of the House of Representatives, and such other persons as may from time to time to be appointed by the President of the Philippines

The President on the same day issued an Administrative Order (No.1) appointing former President of the Philippines Sergio Osmeña and Jose Yulo, Speaker of the former National Assembly, Members of the Council of State.

President Roxas on July 1 gave at Malacañan a state dinner in honor of Philippines Resident Commissioner to the United States Carlos P. Romulo who, with Mrs. Romulo, arrived on the afternoon of that same day by plane from the United States to attend the independence ceremonies. In a speech delivered at the affair, Commissioner Romulo reviewed his work in Washington and advocated for the acceptance of the Philippine Trade Act of 1946.

At appropriate ceremonies held at Plaza Lawton on the morning of last June 30, Lieutenant General W. D. Styer, Commanding General of the American Forces in the Western Pacific, on behalf of the United States Army, turned over the Philippine Army to the Commonwealth of the Philippines, together with stores of supplies and equipment from the various depots and bases of the American armed forces here. Accepting the return of the Philippine Army command, President Roxas, in a brief speech, expressed gratefulness to Lieutenant General Styer, to the United States Army, and to the United States Government “for making it possible for us to maintain our army in the face of the practical difficulties which exist.” He also declared that he, as the Commander-in-Chief of the Philippine Army, “will retain the best of the American military tradition in the military system.”

The Senate and the House of Representatives of the Second Congress of the Philippines, in separate sessions held on the evening of July 3, approved the administration measure authorizing the President of the Philippines to enter into an executive agreement with the President of the United States as required under the Philippine Trade Act of 1946.

United States Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal arrived in Manila by plane on the afternoon of July 5. On the evening of that same day President Roxas honored him with a dinner at Malacañan.

Speaker Gil Montilla, of the first National Assembly under the Philippine Commonwealth, died of a heart attack in Bacolod, Negros Occidental, on the morning of July 21. Upon being advised of his death, President Roxas issued a statement saying that the Filipino people “will remember with gratitude the name of this stalwart whose steady hand and quiet methods did much to insure the early success of the Commonwealth.”

As a sign of mourning the House of Representatives of the Second Congress of the Philippines on July 22 adjourned after passing a resolution of condolence.

The mortal remains of President Manuel L. Quezon arrived in Manila on the afternoon of July 27 on board the USS Princeton. Accompanying the body were United States Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy, former Governor-General and High Commissioner of the Philippines, representing President Truman; his aides Colonels Joy Dow and Abraham Garfinkle; and Colonel Manuel Nieto, representing the Philippine Government.

After a brief religious service on board the USS Princeton, the casket bearing the remains was lowered for the funeral procession to Malacañan. President Roxas, Mrs. Aurora A. Quezon and her children, and other members of the family of the late President led the nation in mourning. Thousands of people lined the route of the funeral cortege from the pier to Malacañan to get a view of the casket and pay homage to the leader.

The body lay in state in Malacañan’s reception hall until the morning of July 28 when it was transferred to the Session Hall of the Congress of the Philippines. Here on the afternoon of the same day the Senate and the House of Representatives held a joint necrological session at which President Roxas and Justice Murphy delivered eulogies. From Tokyo, General of the Army Douglas McArthur sent his funeral oration for the occasion. It was read by Vice President Quirino.

From the Session Hall of Congress the body was taken on July 29 to the chapel of the Santo Tomas University where it will remain until August 1, which has been designated by President Roxas as the day for the interment of the national leader.

The President on July 25 issued Proclamation No. 2 declaring a period of national mourning for President Quezon beginning on July 27 and ending on August 19, 1946, President Quezon’s birthday anniversary. The proclamation also enjoins the Filipino people to gather in their respective places of worship at high noon on August 1 to pray for the repose of the soul of the departed President, and orders that flags on all government buildings and installations throughout the Philippines be flown at half-mast and that other proper observances of national mourning shall be manifested.

## **President's Month in Review: August, 1946**

### **OG Vol.42 No.8**

#### **(August 1946)**

Approximately 28,000 hectares of land formerly held in the Philippines by three big Japanese development companies, together with all the latter's shares of stocks and other assets, were formally transferred to the Republic of the Philippines by the United States Government on August 22. Nominal consideration for the transfer was one dollar. And the deed was signed by President Manuel Roxas for the Philippine Government and United States Alien Property Custodian Roger Brooks for the American government.

On signing the deed President Roxas said that the transfer of the lands to the Republic will make it possible to begin the task of rehabilitating them.

The President on August 7 issued a Proclamation (No. 6) declaring Sunday, September 1, 1946, National Food Production Day and calling upon all citizens and residents of the Philippines to immediately undertake the production of more foodstuffs and otherwise carry into effect the aims of the Food Production Campaign now being waged all over the country.

The proclamation aims to focus national attention on the grave situation now facing the country "by fixing a date on which all the people may devote all their time, thoughts and energies to helping in the solution of the acute food problem."

The Philippines joined the Allied Powers in commemorating the first anniversary of the surrender of Japan on August 14. On the eve of that day President Roxas issued a statement saying that the event was cause "for rejoicing and rededication to the precious fruits of our victory... freedom and democracy."

From his headquarters in Tokyo, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur also issued a statement lauding the unselfish cooperation of all elements that made possible the Allied victories from Buna to Luzon, and declaring that August 14 is as much a day of victory as of thanksgiving "on which we bow our heads in extreme humility and thank God that we, of democratic faith, have demonstrated to the world that peace can be gained and kept by governments established from and by the common peoples."

The President on the afternoon of August 14 visited the sick and disabled veterans in the First General Hospital of the Philippine Army in Mandaluyong. Briefly addressing the latter on the significance of V-J Day, he said:

"This is your achievement, yours as much as that of many others. Yours is the honor and the glory. Yours is whatever satisfaction there is in knowing that you were the instruments of justice and righteousness, that your arms bore the keen sword of mankind's certain vengeance and retribution against the evil-doers, the war makers, the tyrants, the oppressors."

The President during his visit inquired about the needs of the veterans and promised them to do everything within his power to help in their rehabilitation. "For the time being," he said, "and until we can obtain proper support and facilities for you from the United States, your Government will continue to care for you to the best of its ability."

In a message honoring the fiftieth anniversary of the Cry of Balintawak on August 26, the President declared that in commemorating the event "it becomes our privilege and duty to dedicate ourselves anew to the equally heroic and patriotic task of making our dearly won independence real, secure and lasting." Only through unity and the preservation of common interests, according to him, can the Filipino people emerge from the "chaos and confusion that the last war visited on our land."

The event was commemorated on August 25 with a parade and an appropriate program at the foot of the Balintawak Monument in Caloocan.

United States Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy, who came to Manila last July 27 on board the USS Princeton as personal representative of United States President Harry S Truman accompanying the remains of President Manuel L. Quezon, enplaned for the United States on August 8.

On the eve of his departure Justice Murphy was honored by President and Mrs. Roxas with a buffet dinner at Malacañan.

Dr. Gregorio Anonas, General Manager of the National Development Company, died of cancer in the New York Memorial Hospital on August 11. The body has been shipped to Manila.

At high noon on August 1 the mortal remains of President Manuel L. Quezon were laid to rest in the North Cemetery. The burial rites, which were attended by President and Mrs. Roxas, Ambassador and Mrs. McNutt, Justice Murphy, ranking government officials, and immediate members of the family and close friends and relatives of the late President, climaxed four days of state memorial services proclaimed by President Roxas in honor of the departed hero and statesman.

Thousands of people lined the streets through which the funeral cortege passed on its way to the North Cemetery from the chapel of the Santo Tomas University. Here, earlier in the morning, a pontifical mass was said by Apostolic Delegate of the Philippines Mons. Guglielmo Piani. Upon reaching the cemetery, the flag-draped casket, which was borne in a hearse, was transferred to a caisson and pulled to the graveside by one hundred men of the Presidential Guard Battalion. As the casket was being placed in the tomb, taps were sounded and a three-minute silence was observed in honor of the late President. The ceremonies ended with a twenty-one gun salute.

## **President's Month in Review: September, 1946**

### **OG Vol. .42 No. 9**

#### **(September 1946)**

President Manuel Roxas on the afternoon of September 25 personally appeared at the opening of the five-day special session of the Congress of the Philippines and delivered a message urging the adoption by that body of a new program for the economic development of the country. This program involves the establishment of a P300,000,000 Rehabilitation Finance Corporation which, according to the President, will serve as a national credit reservoir for the reconstruction and repair of war-damaged property and for the expansion of the national economy. The corporation will be empowered to grant loans to private individuals, corporations and associations for the rehabilitation or development of agricultural, commercial or industrial enterprises; to government corporations and entities for rehabilitation and other projects such as water-power development, public utilities, irrigation systems, water works, resettlement projects, and purchase and subdivision of large estates; to cities, municipalities and provinces for rehabilitation or self-liquidating projects such as public markets and toll-bridges; to agricultural, marketing and consumer cooperatives in furtherance of the cooperative movement; and to private individuals for home building and for business purposes.

In support of the establishment of the corporation the President stressed the immediate need for a source of credit to move the wheels of industry and commerce. He explained that war-damage payments will be delayed and they are far from adequate to enable private enterprises to get back on their feet again. He added that without such credit facilities as are proposed with the establishment of the corporation, "rehabilitation will be a slow and painful process."

In asking Congress to adopt his proposal the President said that his plan is neither radical nor new since similar programs "have been long tried in other countries, including the United States, and have proved their complete worthiness." "The institution and the idea," the President asserted, "are unquestionably sound. The test will come in our execution of this idea. It will require, above all, the sage deliberations and counsels of the Congress."

Fifteen bills and one joint resolution approved by the Congress of the Philippines during its last regular session were signed by the President on September 25. The bills included those providing for the registration, deposit and outlawing of emergency notes, imposing the death penalty on kidnapping, penalizing desertion or non-support of wife and children by the husband, authorizing the payment of a gratuity to the widow and children of a deceased officer or member of any police force engaged in the maintenance of peace and order, and outlawing the dumping of imported articles, wares or merchandise into the Philippines. The joint resolution authorizes the President to organize immediately additional elementary classes in the public schools throughout the country.

The President on September 30 also signed :

- (1) An act amending the Philippine Rice Share Tenancy Act so as to provide for crop-sharing on a 70-30 basis.
- (2) An act exempting from internal-revenue taxes new and necessary industries for four years from the time they are established; and
- (3) An act providing for the compilation of a new Philippine census not later than January, 1947.

The President on September 7 issued a proclamation (No. 8 ) granting amnesty to all persons who committed any act penalized under the Revised Penal Code in furtherance of the resistance to the enemy or against persons aiding in the war effort of the enemy, and committed during the period from December 8, 1941, to the date when each particular area of the Philippines was actually liberated from enemy control and occupation. This amnesty shall not apply to crimes against chastity or to acts committed from purely personal motives.

Guerilla Amnesty Commissions, to be established simultaneously, will, according to the proclamation, examine all cases coming within the terms of the amnesty and decide each case according to the facts and circumstances surrounding it.

The President on the same date sent to the Congress of the Philippines a message asking that body to give its concurrence to the proclamation.

Also by proclamation (No. 9) the President on September 18 called the Congress of the Philippines in special session for a period of five days commencing September 25, 1946, for the purpose of considering the appropriation bill and such other legislation as the President may submit to it.

In discharge of three outstanding obligations of the United States to the Philippines, an agreement for the transfer to the Philippine Government of practically all the United States surplus property in the Islands was signed on September 11 by President Roxas, on behalf of the Philippine Republic, and William E. Vogelback, Central Field Commissioner of the Foreign Liquidation Commission of the United States Department of State, on behalf of the United States Government. Witnesses to the signing were Vice President Elpidio Quirino and United States Ambassador Paul V. McNutt.

The property transferred includes \$6,000,000 worth of surplus ships and watercraft at fair value, plus all fixed installations which can be declared surplus and \$25,000,000 in cash. The obligation discharged were (1) approximately \$85,000,000 of surplus property credit which is the balance due the Philippines from the original \$100,000,000 voted by the United States Congress in the Tydings Philippine Rehabilitation Act; (2) the United States Army's portion of the obligation for redemption of authorized guerilla currency issued during the occupation; and (3) the United States Army's obligations to the Philippine Government for advances made by the latter in emergency currency for the support of the operations of the former during the war.

Through the United States Embassy, the United States Treasury on September 2 announced that the funds freezing controls in the Philippines terminated on September 1. On this same date the United States Foreign Funds Control Office in Manila was closed.

Upon officially assuming jurisdiction over foreign funds in the Philippines, President Roxas declared the controls will continue. The Republic, he declared, will go on with the policy of controlling the disposition of funds by persons who traded with the enemy.

The President on September 6 issued a proclamation to the people of Central Luzon appealing for support of his program of economic and social reform and for the restoration of peace in the region. The proclamation listed a twelve-point program of measures for the amelioration of present condition in the unrest areas.

Secretary of the Interior Jose C. Zulueta on the same date issued an appeal to the people of Central Luzon urging immediate surrender of arms and cooperation with the forces of law and order.

Speaking at the luncheon given in his honor by the University of the Philippines Alumni Association on September 28 at the Manila Hotel, President Roxas remarked on "the extreme and unintelligent nationalistic spirit" which today pervades many quarters, especially among the youth of the land. He said that while a spirit of national pride is vital to independent existence, it must not be left untended and let to become "antagonistic to freedom, to democracy, to art, to culture, to all the noblest endeavors of man." "People," he declared, "who have built their national pride on sand, which have worshipped only the idols of race or nationality, remain confined in the narrows of their own shortsightedness and provincialism. They furnish no leadership to the world, nor happiness to their own people."

The President discussed in this connection the country's economic program and needs. Maintaining that natural resources are not useful riches until they are developed and converted into products for consumption or industrial use, he said that foreign capital must be invited here to help the people in their great tasks. "We should have confidence," he declared, "in our own governmental skills, in our own powers of regulation, and in our own ability

to safeguard our national interests; we should have no fear of foreign capital; we can well afford to pay it its due reward, and retain for our nation the benefits of the development and the employment brought to us.”

The President also spoke of the need of revitalizing “the spirit of the people even as we bring them social and economic justice.” In this undertaking he urged the press, the school, the church and the home to play the leading roles.

The Congress of the Philippines at its last session on September 18 approved the resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution granting parity rights to Americans in the Philippines. The proposed amendment will be submitted to the Filipino people for ratification in a plebiscite for the holding of which plans are now underway.

In a speech delivered at a convocation of the University of the Philippines on the afternoon of September 23, Vice President Elpidio Quirino declared that “far and above the material things that occupy our minds at this stage of our national uplift” what the Filipinos need most to rebuild is the morale of the people. He called upon the youth of the land to cast away the spell of defeatism that seems to have possessed many of them ever since the war ended. “We cannot work out our economic salvation,” he said, “if we begin by saying that we are hopelessly ruined, that we are without resources, without ability, without experience. We cannot defend our independence if we begin by being afraid of it.”

The speaker asked for “an essential loyalty to ourselves, a spirit of dignity and self-reliance, a belief without reservation in our right and ability to be as an independent in fact as we are independent in name.” “Let us not face the world on our knees like beggars,” he declared, “but standing on our own feet, as the equal of other free people, ready to bargain, willing to consider any honorable proposition of mutual aid and advantage.”

The first Congress of the Republic of the Philippines was honored by President and Mrs. Roxas with a reception at Malacañan on the evening of September 7. Special guests included United States Ambassador and Mrs. Paul V. McNutt and United States Congressmen Robert E. Sikes, Dewey Short, Thomas E. Martin, Michael Feihan and J.L. Johanas, members of the military affairs committee of the United States House of Representatives then in Manila in the course of inspection tour of American bases in the Pacific.

President and Mrs. Roxas were also hosts at two state dinners at Malacañan during the month. The first one was given on September 8 in honor of the visiting American congressmen, and the second, on September 26 in honor of the Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the Philippines.



## **President's Month in Review: October, 1946**

### **OG Vol. 42 No. 10**

#### **(October 1946)**

At a formal ceremony in Malacañan on the afternoon of October 22, President Manuel L. Roxas, on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, and Ambassador Paul V. McNutt, on behalf of the United States, signed the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty of General Relations. This treaty covers the basic relations between the two Governments and takes the place of the provisional treaty signed at the independence day ceremonies last July 4 and later ratified by the Senates of both countries.

On receiving Ambassador McNutt for the signing ceremony, President Roxas said that the treaty was "a testament of faith of the American people" in the Filipino people and their future and the basic charter of friendship between the Philippine and the American Governments. Replying to President Roxas' remarks, Ambassador McNutt declared that the treaty "is the proof, to ourselves and to the world, that the will of the peoples, as expressed by their legislatures, prevails." "Two sovereign nations," he added, "by decision of their duly elected legislators and Chief Executives, have agreed to live together as close relatives within the family of nations."

Present at the ceremony were high officials of the Philippine Government including Vice President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Elpidio Quirino, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Bernabe Africa, and Chief of the Executive Office Emilio Abello, and members of Ambassador McNutt's staff composed of Minister Nathaniel Davis, E.D. Hester, economic adviser, Julius C.C. Edelstein, director of public information, and aides.

Following the signing of the exchange of ratifications of the Treaty of General Relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States on October 22, the President issued a proclamation (No. 11) making public the provisions of both the treaty and the protocol accompanying it so as to enable all the citizens of the Republic to observe and fulfill them with good faith.

The President on October 29 signed the three bills providing for the establishment and capitalization of the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation. Upon signing the President declared that with the approval of the measures "the Government is moving forward with its program to overcome as much as possible the inherent inertia which is holding back full-scale rehabilitation and reconstruction." He explained that the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation is designed to provide credit facilities for all who wish to undertake the rehabilitation of war-destroyed enterprises and the expansion of the country's industrial potential. Its whole purpose is to permit the people the greatest possible opportunity and to give them every encouragement to participate in the national economic life in every field. Every inducement, the President assured, will be given to Filipinos to take advantage of the facilities made available by the establishment of the corporation.

The Honorable Chen Chih-Ping, of the Republic of China, and the Honorable Harry Linton Foulds, of the British Empire, Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary of their respective countries to the Philippines, presented their credentials to President Roxas at separate ceremonies held at Malacañan during the month. Minister Chen was received by the President on the afternoon of October 3. On handing his letter of credence to Chief Executive, the Chinese envoy declared that he drew great satisfaction from coming into close contact with the Filipino people for whose industry and heroism he had the profoundest admiration. Replying to Minister Chen's remarks, the President said that he had no doubt that the Philippines and China will continue their fruitful collaboration of centuries, based on mutual respect and understanding.

The president received Minister Foulds on the afternoon of October 30. Briefly addressing the President before presenting his credentials, the British Minister declared that he shall make it his constant endeavour "to maintain and strengthen the good relations which have so happily been established between the British Commonwealth and the new Republic."

In his reply, the President recalled the historical, economic and cultural ties that bind the two countries. "Throughout our long struggle for freedom," he said, "our leaders have drawn unfailing inspiration from the ideals and principles enunciated by Anglo-Saxon political thinkers. The Magna Carta, your immortal contribution to the cause of human freedom, is deeply imbedded in the Filipino soul and its principles form the mainstay of our political faith.

By Administrative Order (No.14) the President on October 18 created a committee to assist him in the reorganization of the different executive departments, bureaus, offices, agencies and other instrumentalities of the Government, including the corporations owned or controlled by it, pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 51. The committee shall be composed of the Commissioner of the Budget, as Chairman, the auditor General, the Commissioner of Civil Service, Vidal Tan, Cornelio Balmaceda and Baltazar G. Cuyugan, as Members, and Faustino Sy-Chanco as Secretary.

Speaking at a luncheon given in his honor by the members of the Philippine Bar Association on October 12 at the Manila Hotel, President Roxas declared that the establishment and maintenance in the Philippines of American bases, despite their disadvantages, are of much greater advantage to the Filipino people in an immediate sense than to the United States. The objective in these defense arrangements, he said, is first to insure the security and sovereignty of the Philippines, and second, to aid as best the Philippines can in strengthening collective security in this part of the world. "Were we to withdraw from the base arrangements with the United States," the President asserted, "we would be sacrificing our national security on the altar of a mistaken sense of dignity. We would then be faced by the problem of assuming alone the maintenance of our national security."

The President also spoke on the maintenance of a noble judiciary as "the most vital concern of the members of the bar." He expressed the hope that the Filipino people may come to look upon the courts "not as a seat of punishment but as a temple of righteousness where the evil-doer and the malefactor will find his just desserts, and where the righteous man may look for the defense and justification of his righteousness." "I can think," he said, "of no finer nor higher goal for the nation. I can think of no better dedication for the legal profession of the Philippines."

Over a national hook-up of radio station KZFM, President Roxas on the evening of October 27 broadcast an appeal to the Filipino people for support of the annual fund drive of the Philippine Red Cross. "The Red Cross," the Chief Executive said, "is in a sense, the very conscience of mankind in action. It is a concrete expression of the fundamental humanitarianism which we all acknowledge as a basic element of our modern civilization." He added that the Red Cross performs services for men, women and children of all colors, races and creeds in times of disaster, tragedy or national need, and the simple symbol of rescue, of help to the sick, the wounded and the starving, as well as those weakened or oppressed by disaster.

The President concluded his broadcast by asking everybody to give to the Philippine Red Cross in mercy's name, as patriots, and as members of the human family.

On the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, President Roxas was inducted as Honorary President of the organization in a ceremony held on Malacañan grounds on the evening of October 31. After taking the Scout oath the President delivered a speech in which he expressed his determination "that this coming generation shall inherit the best world and the best Philippines that it is within our power to endow them." "These young of ours," the President declared, "must have their opportunity to live in peace and security for the glory of mankind. In the name of all of them, I pledge my efforts toward this end."

President Roxas on the morning of October 24 left by plane for Baguio to accompany his daughter Ruby who will remain in the summer capital for some time. He flew back to Manila on the afternoon of October 26. During his brief vacation the President found occasion to confer with local authorities and discuss with them plans for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Baguio.

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Joaquin M. Elizalde arrived in Manila by clipper on the afternoon of October 12 to submit to President Roxas an over-all report on the status of various Philippine affairs in Washington,

D.C. A group government officials and friends, including Chief of the Executive Office Emilio Abello and Assistant Secretary to the President Nicanor Roxas, met him at the airport.

President Roxas honored Ambassador Elizalde with a dinner at Malacañan on the evening of October 28.

Another arrival in Manila during the month was Major General Albert M. Jones, head of the United States military mission and adviser to President Roxas on military affairs. He came by plane from San Francisco on October 26.

Secretary of National Defense Colonel Ruperto Kangleon was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Bronze Star Medal at an impressive ceremony held on the Malacañan grounds on the afternoon of October 23. Present at the ceremony were President Roxas, members of the Cabinet, and ranking Philippine Army and AFWESPAC officers headed by Major General J.C. Christiansen, acting Commander General, AFWESPAC, who pinned the decorations on Secretary Kangleon.

The distinguished Service Cross was awarded Secretary Kangleon for extraordinary heroism in action on Leyte from October 21, 1943, to October 20, 1944, and the Bronze Star Medal, for meritorious achievement while assistant executive officer, Agusan Section, Visayan-Mindanao force, from February 1 to 28, 1942, in Davao.

## **President's Month in Review: November, 1946**

### **OG Vol. 42 No.11**

#### **(November 1946)**

President Manuel Roxas was the main speaker at the solemn commemoration of National Heroes' Day at the National Cemetery in Capas, Tarlac, on the afternoon of November 30. Addressing thousands of people, many of them widows and relatives of war dead who had come from all over Luzon to join in the celebration, the President enjoined the Filipinos to resolve to maintain aloft the standard for which the gallant soldiers of the country nobly gave up their lives. "We must," he declared, "dedicate ourselves anew to the principles of liberty and justice for which they shed their blood. We must determine to devote our every thought and energy to the end that this nation may live in peace, freedom and prosperity." Of the war dead the Chief Executive said that "their heroic sacrifice set a measure of fidelity to our flag and our institutions for this and future generations." He added: "We will not forget their widows and orphans. We will endeavor to make ourselves worthy of their exemplary conduct."

On the occasion of his visit to Capas, the President on the morning of November 30 was honored with a review by the 12<sup>th</sup> Division of the Philippine Scouts at Camp O'Donnel, which adjoins the National Cemetery. After the review he delivered a speech in which he paid tribute not only to the Filipino soldier dead but also to the gallant Americans "who shed their blood in our soil that our nation might live in freedom." He expressed the hope and the Americans, who fought side by side as comrades, "will continue to live as comrades and, if need arises again, act as comrades in defense of the ideals that we have in common." The President also highly commended the Philippine Scout. "No soldier anywhere in the world," he asserted, "fought in the last war more bravely, gallantly or with more skill than the Philippine Scout. His record is unsurpassed by any soldier in any front." To these Filipino soldiers, who by virtue of the provisions of our laws have lost their Philippine citizenship, the President promised to recommend at the next session of Congress an amendment to the citizenship law so as to permit them to retain their country's citizenship in spite of the oath of loyalty to the United States they are required to take as members of the United States Army.

The President on November 12 issued an Executive Order (No. 24) creating a National Advisory Health Council to study problems of public health and sanitation and to make such recommendations as it may deem necessary for the improvement of public health and sanitation and the promotion of medical research in the Philippines. The council shall be composed of the Secretary of Health and Public Welfare, as Chairman, and the Director of the Bureau of Quarantine Service, the Chairman of the Board of Medical Examiners, the President of the Philippine Medical Association, the Dean of the College of Medicine of the University of the Philippines, the Dean of the College of Medicine of the University of Santo Tomas, and Drs. Florentino Herrera, Pedro Velasco, Lorenzo Macaisa, Antonio Fernando, Guillermo Rustia and Agustin Liboro, as Members.

By Administrative Order (No. 29) the President also created a Committee to conduct negotiations for the acquisition by the government of such properties owned by the Archbishop of Manila as the latter may be willing to dispose in favor of the former. Those named to the Committee are: Secretary of Justice Roman Ozaeta, Chairman, and Ramon Avanceña, Ramon Fernandez, Jose Paez, Faustino Aguilar and Jose Baluyot, Members.

In a proclamation (No. 15) issued on November 27 the President designated Monday, December 2, 1946, as Parents' Day "in fitting homage to our parents, in continued recognition and observance of their unquestioned moral authority, and in acknowledgement of their responsibility in sustaining the beauty and power of our native and national institutions."

Appointments made by the President during the month included the following:

Press Secretary Modesto Farolan as Foreign Service Officer and Consul General to Hawaii.

Miguel Cuaderno as Secretary of Finance.

Judge Felix Bautista Angelo as Undersecretary of Justice vice Roberto Concepcion who was appointed Justice of the Court of Appeals.

Judge Marceliano R. Montemayor as Presiding Justice, and Alex Reyes, Luis P. Torres, Fernando Jugo, Alejo Labrador, Roberto Concepcion, Jose B.L. Reyes, Manuel Lim, Pastor M. Endencia, Alfonso Felix, Jose Gutierrez David and Mariano de la Rosa as Justices of the Court of Appeals.

Speaking extemporaneously before a student convocation at the University of the Philippines on the afternoon of November 19, the President defended the proposed constitutional amendment providing for special rights for American citizens as “an integral part of the rehabilitation plan approved by the United States for the Philippines” designed to restore and expand the pre-war sources of income of the country. He said that he saw no alternative to the acceptance of the amendment and no justification for its rejection. “It is up to us,” the President declared, “to expand our economy and to reconstruct it along independent lines. The present trade arrangements give us a chance to do so over a 28-year adjustment period. To turn down that chance and to invite national disaster would be a poor and ill-conceived use of our sovereignty.”

The President branded the term “parity as a complete misnomer.” He explained that the Philippine Republic does not propose to grant equal rights to American citizens in any sense of the word. What is proposed is to grant special rights, the right of equal treatment in regard to the development of natural resources and ownership of public utilities. “That is a far cry from parity,” the President asserted. “There is no infringement whatsoever upon our sovereignty. Many nations grant special rights to engineers, miners, technicians and the like. Those are exactly the type of skills which we need and will come if the amendment is ratified.”

The President also enumerated the consequences of the rejection of the amendment and declared that such consequences would lead to “national disaster and chaos.” He added: “On the other hand, approval of the amendment would result in intensification of rehabilitation and strengthening of government resources and the broadening of national economy, agrarian and social reform and other essential elements of the national program.”

Armistice Day was fittingly commemorated at Malacañan on the morning of November 11 with a special ceremony attended by high officials of the Republic of the Philippines and representatives and heads of missions and their staffs of the Allied countries. With Vice President Elpidio Quirino giving the opening remarks, the brief but impressive program was featured by speeches by President Roxas; Major General J. G. Christiansen, Commanding General of AFWESPAC; Rear Admiral H. H. Good, Commander of the United States naval forces in the Philippines; Brigadier General Macario Peralta Jr., lately Deputy Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army and now Chairman of the Philippine Veterans Board; Lieutenant Colonel B. L. Anderson, of the United States Army, war-time commander of Anderson’s Guerillas of Central Luzon; United States Ambassador to the Philippines Paul V. McNutt; British Minister to the Philippines Linton Harry Foulds; French Charge d’ Affaires Gaston Willoquet; and Chinese Charge D’ Affaires Pichi Sun. The speeches were delivered immediately after all the guests had observed, at the stroke of 11 and at the invitation of Vice President Elpidio Quirino, a minute of silence “in remembrance of the dead of the two wars, whose heroic sacrifices have saved our civilization.”

Vice President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Elpidio Quirino, on behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, and Ambassador Paul V. McNutt, for the United States, on November 16 signed the Treaty on Conciliation between the two countries and the Air Agreement. The conclusion of the treaty, the Vice President explained, imposes a solemn obligation upon both governments not to resort to any means other than friendly, peaceful and legal in the adjustment of any problems that might arise between the Philippines and the United States, while the Air Agreement assures Philippine air companies absolute equality with American airlines.

Arrivals in Manila during the month were:

Lieutenant Colonel Jesus A. Villamor, Filipino hero of the Pacific war, by plane from the United States on November 25.

General Thomas T. Handy, Deputy Chief of Staff, General Staff, United States War Department, by plane from Tokyo on November 25, in the course of an inspection tour of the Pacific.

Major General George F. Moore, veteran of Corregidor, by plane from Tokyo on November 16, to assume his duties as new Commanding General of AFWESPAC.

United States Assistant Secretary of the Navy W. John Kenny and a staff of high ranking naval officers, by plane from the United States on November 13, for a tour of the Philippines in connection with post-war problems and naval supplies.

Commissioner Frank A. Waring and Francisco Delgado, of the United States-Philippine War Damage Commission, and key members of their staff, by plane from the United States on November 1, to start organization of the offices of the commission throughout the Philippines.

President and Mrs. Roxas on November 16 honored Vice President Quirino with a state dinner at Malacañan on the occasion of his birthday.

## **President's Month in Review: December, 1946**

### **OG Vol. 42 No.12**

#### **(December 1946)**

Speaking at the national celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Dr. Jose Rizal on the morning of November 30 at the Luneta, President Roxas declared:

“Whatever our difficulties today, however impoverished we are by war, we are rich in our heritage of Rizal’s patriotism and wisdom. It is a constant spur to our national endeavors to merit, in our daily lives, our claim to his sacrifice.”

The President added that today the country needs men of Rizal’s mold and principles. “There are no better guides to national glory and worth,” he asserted, “than the precepts which this great soul set forth for our people. He distilled them from his deep knowledge of our past and his bright hope for our future. We would do well to steep ourselves in the wisdom he taught us.” The Chief Executive also enjoined the Filipino people never to rest until they have established the opportunity of all men to live in comfort and security. He warned in this connection, against “self anointed leaders” who claim to represent a single economic class and imprison the people’s minds in the hoop of “sacrosanct doctrine.” “That is too heavy a price for the promise of economic equality,” he said. “Power is too intoxicating a wine to be entrusted, without the peoples check, to a single party or oligarchy, or despot.”

Besides the President’s speech, floral offerings and a civic parade featured this year’s commemoration of Rizal Day, the first to take place under the Republic. President and Mrs. Roxas headed the long line of high officials of the national government and representative of the United States Army and Navy and foreign nations who placed wreaths at the foot of the hero’s monument.

On the eve of the celebration a commemorative program was broadcast over all local stations with Vice President Elpidio Quirino as principal speaker and Doña Trinidad Rizal, only living sister of the national hero, as special guest. Secretary Emilio Abello, chairman of this year’s Rizal Day Committee, gave the opening remarks.

In a message issued on Christmas day, the President said:

“In the universal search for peace and the good life, the spirit that infuses men, women and children, young and old, rich and poor, on Christmas Day, should light the way. True Christian fellowship, brotherhood, goodwill and kindness—these are Christmas. And these—not arrogance, nor selfishness, nor greed, nor conceit, nor avarice—can lead humanity to its long cherished goal of peace and happiness.”

Following a tradition observed by all Chief Executives preceding him, President Roxas on Christmas eve granted a total of 128 pardons and two commutations of sentence to prisoners confined in Muntinlupa.

By Administrative Order (No.20), the President on December 3 created a Rice and Corn Production Commission to recommend areas of public and private lands suitable for immediate development; to submit plans to bring these areas into immediate cultivation for the production of rice, corn and other food crops; and to recommend means and methods for the speedy mechanization of Philippine rice and corn culture. Appointed to the Commission were: Felipe Buencamino, Jr., Chairman, and Jose Camus, Eduardo Cojuanco, Hilario Henares, Vicente Tordesillas, Amando Dalisay, Jose Gaston, Senen Gabaldon and Luis Lichauco, Members.

The President on December 6 left Manila on an inspection trip to the provinces of Visayas and Mindanao. He was accompanied by members of his cabinet, congressmen and a staff of government technical officials. Upon his return on the morning of December 14, the President declared that the trip gave him the opportunity to look into the actual problems and prevailing conditions in the areas visited which need the attention of the national government. “As a result of my inspection,” the Chief Executive said, “I have all the necessary information on which to base my report

and recommendations to Congress when it meets in January. The visit to the South has given me a clear idea of the problems that need urgent attention and this should enable me to map out the necessary remedies.”

Addressing a joint convention of provincial governors and mayors, district engineers, division superintendents of schools, and provincial treasurers on the morning of December 16 at the House of Representatives, President Roxas explained details of the problems involving provincial administration, discussed matters concerning rehabilitation and reconstruction and the maintenance of peace and order, and reported on the state of the nation. On the question of peace and order he declared that it was not enough that lawless elements have been placed behind bars. He explained that peace and order means that the people have respect for the Government and confidence in those who execute the laws. They must feel, he said, that the Government is fair and just. As to the national government’s financial condition, the President stressed that it was critical, and that, therefore, efforts must be made by all agencies of the government to collect taxes and other obligations due the Government from its citizens. He pointed out that the National Government faces a deficit of about P175,000,000 in next year’s budget, and most of that deficit is expected to be met from loans from the United States.

Shortly after delivering his speech, the President was presented with a check for \$1,000,000 by Chairman Frank A. Waring and Commissioner Francisco A. Delgado, of the United States-Philippine War Damage Commission, as an advance payment on a public claim of the Republic of the Philippines for P10,000,000 for restoration of certain schools, hospitals and other public buildings. The President thanked Chairman Waring in behalf of the Philippine government and people.

In an extemporaneous speech at a luncheon given by the Manila Rotary Club at the Manila Hotel on December 19, the President urged the businessmen present to have full faith in the political stability and economic soundness of the nation. He said that his economic program contemplates full employment and higher standards of living for all the people. It aims to increase agricultural output and extensive industrial expansion. He described the present national economy and the importance of free trade with the United States. In this connection he took time to answer statements made by some opponents of parity that free trade is injurious to the Philippines because the free entry of American manufactures into the Philippines will prevent the industrialization of this country. “That argument will not hold water,” the President declared. “It is based on a political philosophy which economists all over the world have abandoned many decades ago. It is contrary to the principle which maintains that each nation should produce such articles as it is peculiarly fitted to produce efficiently and economically. The permanent protection of an industry is subsidy and, in the long run, the nation pays more to maintain an inefficient industry than is justified by the benefits that could possibly be derived from it.”

The President concluded his speech by appealing to businessmen for a better understanding of the nation’s problems and needs. He urged his listeners to visualize the great economic future of the Philippines and instantly participate in the task of economic reconstruction and development.

The President and Mrs. Roxas on the evening of December 28 gave a reception and ball at Malacañan in honor of the diplomatic corps. The ball was opened with the rigodon de honor led by President Roxas and Mrs. Paul V. McNutt and 15 other pairs of ranking government and diplomatic officials and their ladies.

Mrs. Roxas on the afternoon of December 23 was hostess to about 3,000 indigent children at a Christmas party on the grounds of Malacañan. A number of prominent ladies assisted her in entertaining the guests.

Mrs. Rosario Acuña Picazo, mother of President Roxas, and Mrs. Mercedes Madamba Llanes, mother of the late Mrs. Josefa Llanes Escoda who gave up her life in the service of her country as a leader of the underground movement during the enemy occupation, were chosen “Outstanding Mothers of 1946” by the National Federation of Women’s Clubs. At appropriate ceremonies held in the Session Hall of Congress on the afternoon of December 2, which have been designated Parents’ Day by presidential proclamation, they were awarded diplomas of merit and medals. The principal address at the ceremonies, which were attended by President and Mrs. Roxas, was delivered by Vice President Quirino, while Mrs. Aurora Aragon Quezon made the awards.



The Vice President in his speech paid high tribute to Filipino mothers in general and to the honorees and Mrs. Escoda in particular. "Filipinas today," he said, "can well boast of a position that few of her sisters of other lands enjoy, and it is most fitting that we should honor her in observing a day set apart for the Filipino Family. It is the Filipino mother who has nourished the true traditions of our family; it is also she who has taken the boldest steps to strengthen and modernize it."

A special Parents' Day program was held in the University of the Philippines on the afternoon of December 5 to honor Mrs. Trinidad de Leon Roxas, wife of the President, who was chosen "Mother of the Year" by the U. P. Women's Club.

## **President's Month in Review: January, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 1**

**(January 1947)**

President Manuel Roxas on the afternoon of January 27 appeared before a joint session of the first Congress of the Republic of the Philippines and delivered a message on the state of the nation. Asserting that within the past eight months the basis of independent government in the Philippines has been firmly established, the President in his message said that the nation had ceased to retreat in disorder and confusion and that it was moving courageously and confidently forward on the road to national health. "We are well," he declared, "into a period of progress. The clouds of gloom which hovered over us eight months ago have dissipated. Hope and resolution have replaced despair and doubt; plan and program have come forward in place of distraction and aimlessness; our economy is taking shape; peace and order have returned; employment is gradually increasing; business prospers; our exports are mounting daily; assistance of many kinds from the United States has come, and more is on the way."

The Chief Executive warned, however, that the crisis was not past. He spoke in detail of the country's still critical condition, and of the heroic efforts which are yet required for national success. He outlined in this connection an industrialization plan for the immediate future of the Philippines. This plan integrates with the government's power development projects. The vocational training program, the establishment of credit facilities, the promotion of geological researches and surveys, the invitation of American capital to invest here, and the proposed constitutional provision for special rights for American citizens. "We will insure," the President said, "the fullest participation by Filipinos in this program."

Concluding his message the President said:

"We will be resolute in our march toward our lofty goals.....carrying lightly the heavy burdens which we now assume, in addition to those thrust upon us by Fate. We will not abandon the contest. The greatness of our nation is at issue. The happiness and enduring welfare of our people are at stake. With the help of Almighty God, we will reach the summits we seek."

The joint session of Congress was held at the Session Hall of the House of Representatives on Lepanto Street. It was attended by the First Lady, the President's mother and daughter, ranking government officials and their ladies, and the diplomatic and consular corps headed by United States Ambassador Paul V. McNutt.

To advise him on matters of national defense, the President by Executive Order (No. 40) created a Council of National Defense. Members of the Council shall be the President, the Vice President, the Head of each Executive Department, Senators Salipada Pendatun and Tomas Cabili, Chairman and Member, respectively, of the Committee on the Army, Navy and Military Pensions of the Senate; Congressman Juan S. Alano, Chairman, and Congressmen Hermenigildo Atienza and Leandro A. Tojong, Members of the National Defense Committee of the House of Representatives, Major General Rafael Jalandoni, Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army, and Brigadier General Macario Peralta, Jr., Chairman of the Philippine Veterans Board. Colonel Jose V. Andrada shall serve as the Secretary of the Council.

On January 6 the president issued a proclamation (No.19) calling a special election to take place on Tuesday, March 11, 1947, for the purpose of electing the members who are to fill the unexpired portion of the term of the following existing vacancies in the House of Representatives: First Representative District of Iloilo, Fifth Representative District of Pangasinan, and sole Representative District of Bukidnon.

Also by proclamation, the President designated (1) the period from February 16 to 22 of each year as Clean-up Week, and (2) the period from February 15 to March 15, 1947, as the period for the National Fund Campaign of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

Exactly a month after his first inspection trip to the South last December, the President on January 13 left Manila again on board the lighthouse tender *Orchid*, this time on a tour of Northern Mindanao and Eastern Visayas. His party included his aides, four members of his Cabinet and a number of newspapermen. The President returned to the city on the morning of January 23 after an 11-day trip during which he had the opportunity to obtain personal knowledge of the most outstanding problems facing the areas visited and take adequate steps for their prompt and satisfactory solution.

The day following his arrival from the South, the President, with Vice President Elpidio Quirino, enplaned for Vigan, Ilocos Sur, to address a mammoth crowd from the provinces of Northern Luzon on the occasion of the town's fiesta. The Chief Executive, in his speech, gave a comprehensive report of the activities and problems of the Administration and made an appeal for the approval of the granting of parity rights to Americans in the Philippines.

The President and his party flew back to Manila on January 25.

Speaking extemporaneously at the opening session of the Coconut Planters' convention on January 29, President Roxas warned that the present high prices of copra may soon decline and that to cope with the situation coconut planters must industrialize, diversify crops, and organize cooperatives. He urged that planters should save, invest more, and improve their plantations. Regarding the diversification of crops, he suggested the planting of food crops which thrive under the coconut trees. He also recommended large scale cattle and hog raising with copra meal as fodder. In order to insure the future stability of the coconut industry, he urged the organization of producers and planters into cooperatives charged with threshing out the problems of the industry. The President promised government aid in various forms, such as scientific and technical aid and government loans, to stabilize the industry.

In a brief ceremony at Malacañan on the afternoon of January 7, President Roxas was presented with a check for P50,000,000 in payment of the United States War Department's share of American obligations to the Philippines for wartime assistance. American principals in the ceremony were Major General George F. Moore, Commanding General of PHILRYCOM, and United States Ambassador Paul V. McNutt, who concluded arrangements for payment of the money on his recent trip to Washington, D.C. General Moore, representing the United States Secretary of War, tendered the check to Ambassador McNutt, who made the formal presentation to President Roxas.

On accepting the check in behalf of the Philippine government and people, the President delivered a short speech in which he expressed his gratitude and the hope that the entire surplus property arrangement will continue to work out in the best interests of economic development in the Philippines. "I think," he said, "the American people will feel recompensed in the sure knowledge that all the transfers that have been made will be carefully husbanded and used to the best of our abilities to provide happiness and work for our people."

Commenting on the payment made by the United States government, Vice President Quirino declared in a statement that "It is one of the fruits of the negotiations which the Republic of the Philippines successfully carried on with the United States government." He added that the money "is a welcome token of the cooperation which is being extended us and which we acknowledge with the dignified gratitude which befits a free and independent country recognizing the qualities of both gratitude and honor."

The President on February 2 formally opened the Rehabilitation Finance Corporation at a brief ceremony at the Regina Building on the Escolta. He delivered a short speech in which he declared that the corporation is the vehicle of the hopes of the administration and of the entire Filipino people for major progress towards rehabilitation and recovery. Addressing Chairman Primitivo Lovina and members of the Board of Governors of the corporation, who were all present at the ceremony, the President warned them of the great responsibilities before them and that they would be held strictly to account for the manner in which they discharged those responsibilities. "This organization," he said, "and all of its personnel must be beyond reproach, and this means above the appearance of evil as well as of evil itself. I must also advise you that error will be almost as dangerous as evil.

The first official act of the President for the year was the signing on the morning of January 1 of the proclamation of the agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States concerning trade and related matters

during the transitional period following independence. This is the same agreement signed on Independence Day, July 4, 1946, by the President and Ambassador McNutt.

In a message issued on New Year's Day the President declared that "we must attain single-mindedness in our devotion to our people's welfare." "Harmony, unity of purpose," he said, "must guide our efforts. The ties of brotherhood must be confirmed; charity and forgiveness must ease the bitter wounds of war." The President also enjoined the Filipino people to pray for progress toward the goal of a more unified and understanding world, "a world of peace, a world in which individual people may cooperatively work out the problems of individual freedom and well-being."

The President on the morning of January 30 formally received the Honorable Teodomiro de Aguilar, First Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Spain to the Republic of the Philippines, at a ceremony in Malacañan. On presenting his letter of credence, the Spanish minister delivered a short address in which he said that the Spanish Government had decided to establish a legation in Manila as "another proof of the lively interest and affection inspired in Spain by this new Republic." The President in his response expressed the hope that "the Philippines and Spain will continue to maintain firmly their traditional bonds of friendship and that both will collaborate in the maintenance of democratic principles and the peace so devoutly wished for by all humanity."

The Cabinet at its meeting on January 10 decided that all insurance policies with the Government Insurance System in force on December 31, 1941, will be considered as paid up as of that date. In view of this decision, all officers and employees of the government who were reinstated after liberation will be considered as having been reinsured effective on the date of reinstatement.

President Roxas on January 1 observed his 55<sup>th</sup> birthday. At a public reception in the morning, the Chief Executive, with Mrs. Roxas, received visitors who came to greet him on the double occasion of his birthday and New Year's Day. Well-wishers arrived in groups, the first of them being headed by Vice President Elpidio Quirino. Members of the Cabinet and of the Judiciary, leaders and members of the Congress of the Philippines and members of the diplomatic consular corps in the Philippines led by Ambassador and Mrs. McNutt, also called on the President. Ambassador McNutt transmitted to the Chief Executive the personal birthday felicitations of the United States President Harry S. Truman.

In the afternoon the President received members of his family and persons very close to him. In the evening friends honored him with a surprise party at Malacañan. It opened with a minuet and was climaxed by a New Year's dinner fireworks at Malacañan Park across the Pasig River, directly opposite the Palace.

On the eve of his birthday, the President was likewise honored with a number of radio programs which included a nation-wide broadcast in which speeches were delivered by Vice President Quirino, Speaker Eugenio Perez of the House of Representatives, and Chief Justice Manuel Moran of the Supreme Court, representing high official circles; and Gil J. Puyat and Aurelio Intertas, representing business and labor elements. The broadcast was organized by Senate President Jose Avelino.

The President and Mrs. Roxas on the evening of January 6 gave a dinner in Malacañan in honor of Major General and Mrs. George Moore. Major General Moore is the Commanding General of PHILRYCOM.

At another dinner on January 30 the President was host to the members of the Philippines-United States Finance Commission.

President Roxas on the afternoon of January 30 was honored by the Philippine Army with a military parade and review in Camp Murphy. He was given a 21-gun salute upon his arrival, and after the parade and review he inspected the military installations in the Camp.

## **President's Month in Review: February, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 2**

#### **(February 1947)**

An intensive campaign in connection with the proposed parity amendment to the Constitution which included a one-week tour of the Bicol provinces, besides important government matters demanding his personal attention, kept President Manuel Roxas unusually busy during the month. On February 1 he was the guest speaker at a convocation of the faculty and student body of the Far Eastern University; on February 5 he spoke before the Confederation of Legions of Filipino Veterans at the Manila Hotel; on February 6 he delivered a speech before the townspeople of Santa Maria, Bulacan, on the occasion of the town fiesta; and on February 8 he addressed a mammoth crowd at the Manila Jockey Club.

The President left for the Bicol provinces on board the steamer Anemone on the morning of February 24 and was scheduled to return to Manila on March 3. His party included Vice-President Elpidio Quirino, Secretary of Public Instruction Manuel V. Gallego, Secretary of Labor Pedro Magsalin, and a group of ladies headed by Mrs. Roxas.

“The Government cannot parley with outlaws,” declared President Roxas in a statement issued on February 15 regarding the current status of the peace and order drive in Central Luzon. “If there are weaknesses in the administration of agrarian reforms, I invite all those who recognize and observe such weaknesses to bring them to my personal attention in detailed and specific form. I will do what I can to insure that what we have promised will be carried out to the letter, and that there shall be no frustration of the nation’s will with regard to agrarian reform.”

The President added that an organic solution to the whole problem is a solution which would encompass the complete restoration of peace and order and the recognition by all of the authority of the Government. This would be accomplished by the surrender of arms by all unofficial groups and individuals and the establishment of ironclad guarantees against violation or deterioration of peace and order.

“There can be no question of amnesty nor of any deal other than submission to legal authority,” The Chief Executive concluded. “There can be no piecemeal disposal of this problem. The only other solution is a continuation of force to bring into line individuals who defy the law.”

At a ceremony held in Malacañan on the afternoon of February 23, a formal agreement for the transfer to the Philippine Government of eight estates belonging to the Catholic Church in the Philippines for the total sum of P5,630,000 was signed by President Roxas, on behalf of the Republic, and Archbishop Michael O’ Doherty of Manila on behalf of the church. The agreement is the result of negotiations between the Archbishop and his advisers and a Committee appointed by the President, headed by Secretary of Justice Roman Ozaeta.

Following the signature of the agreement, the President remarked “that this move is a major step in the direction of those social and agrarian reforms which are so vital for the success of our national efforts.” He added: “The Government is acquiring these estates for one purpose only—in order to distribute them without profit to the farmers and home dwellers who inhabit the lands and buildings comprising these properties.”

The President on February 11 submitted to the Congress of the Philippines the proposed budget for 1947-48 carrying a total of P227,397,283. In a message accompanying the budget, he recommended that an overall ceiling of P269,000,000 be established for all government expenditures during the incoming fiscal year. This includes provision for an appropriation not exceeding P20,000,000 for public works and P7,000,000 for such miscellaneous special purposes as Congress may from time to time specify. With an estimated revenue of P130,000,000 and an authorized appropriation ceiling of P269,000,000, the Philippine Government faces for this coming fiscal year a deficit of P139,000,000 which, according to the President, is P156,000,000 less than the deficit during the current year.

The President said in his message that while there will be a probable decrease in the spending here of United States armed services during the ensuing year, he believes that this will be entirely compensated by an increase in the activity of private enterprise and new investments following the approval of the parity amendment on March 11, and by the undertakings of the Philippine and the United States governments through the War Damage Commission and other American agencies, all of which will necessarily be reflected in increased revenues from taxation.

In order to give the heads of the various departments, bureaus, and offices of the National Government a more direct control over the expenditures of their respective appropriations, the President on February 10 issued an Executive Order (No. 43) separating the accounting and auditing services of the Government and turning them over to the respective heads of the different offices.

In another Executive Order (No.44) the President lifted the prohibition against the importation into the Philippines of all kinds of cattle, including carabaos.

President Roxas on the afternoon of February 14, at a solemn ceremony held in the reception hall of Malacañan, signed the Geneva Convention for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded and sick of armies in the field and the Prisoners of War Convention covering the treatment of war prisoners. The event marked the first step towards the recognition of the Philippine Red Cross Society by the International Red Cross Society as an independent National Red Cross organization. "I am proud," the President remarked after signing the treaties, "of this forthcoming status of the Philippine Red Cross, whose new dignity is merited in every way."

The conventions were signed by the President in the presence of Vice-President Quirino, United States Ambassador Paul V. McNutt, Secretary Emilio Abello, Swiss Consul Oscar Schneider, Chairman Aurora A. Quezon of the Central Executive Committee of the Philippine Red Cross, Mrs. Roxas, consular and diplomatic representatives, United States Army and Navy officials, and prominent businessmen and social and Red Cross workers.

The President on February 7 formally received in Malacañan the Honorable Gaston Willoquet, who presented his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of France to the Republic of the Philippines. In welcoming the French Minister, he expressed the hope the French nation will again lead toward the attainment of liberty, equality and fraternity for all humanity. "Both French and Filipino blood, in unlimited amounts," the President said, "has been shed in that sacred cause."

President Roxas on February 22 gave a luncheon in Malacañan in honor of Philippine Delegate to the United Nations Organization Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo, who arrived in Manila by plane from the United States on February 20. Ambassador Romulo came to report to the President on his activities in the UNO and to deliver speeches in favor of the proposed parity amendment to the constitution.

At another luncheon on February 14 President and Mrs. Roxas honored United States Ambassador to Australia and Mrs. Robert W. Butler, who arrived in Manila on February 11 on a week's social visit.

President and Mrs. Roxas were also hosts to Vice-Admiral Sir Denis Boyd, Commander in Chief of the British Pacific Fleet, and Lady Boyd at a buffet-dinner at Malacañan on February 7, and to a group of visiting United States editors and publishers at a dinner party at the recreation hall of Malacañan across the Pasig on February 17.

Stamping of Treasury certificates which is required for notes that have not been stamped with the word Victory will be extended to March 31, 1948. Both Houses of Congress have approved the bill filed at the instance of Secretary of Finance Miguel Cuaderno.

Until March 31, 1948, unstamped Treasury notes will be acceptable as legal tender. It is believed that by that time, all Treasury notes in circulation will have been stamped as required.

Judges Vicente Nepomuceno and Simplicio Del Rosario, retired members of the Philippine judiciary, died during the month. Judge Nepomuceno passed away on February 6 in his home in Sta. Ana, while Judge Del Rosario died on February 22 in his home in New Manila.

## **President's Month in Review: March, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 3**

#### **(March 1947)**

President and Mrs. Roxas and their daughter Ruby narrowly escaped death at the hands of an assassin at Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, on the evening of March 10, during a mammoth rally for the approval of the parity amendment to the Constitution. The President had just concluded his final speech on the eve of the plebiscite on parity when a hand grenade, thrown by a man from Tondo, exploded on the stairs of the stage, three feet away from the President, injuring six persons, one of whom died the next day. The President himself was unhurt, and so were his wife and daughter who were seated just behind him in the grandstand with high government officials.

An hour after the attempt, the President's would-be assassin was arrested in his home by members of the Detective Bureau assigned to the meeting. He was one Julio Guillen, who readily admitted his guilt. He is now being tried for murder and multiple attempted murder.

The President received hundreds of messages from all over the Philippines and abroad expressing condemnation of the attempt on his life and joy at his having escaped it without injury. To the many who called at Malacañan with greetings of sympathy, the President said: "It is part of the game."

"The Filipino people have won a great victory," declared President Roxas in a statement issued on March 12 on the overwhelming approval of the constitutional amendment granting special economic rights to Americans in the Philippines. "They have demonstrated to a watching world the wonderful workings of democracy." He added: "I rejoice at the decision, confirming as it does the views I hold and have so fervently urged. But I rejoice even more at the way this grave and momentous issue has been decided. We may, all of us, take pride in the process of selection and judgment which has been so dramatically and yet so soberly worked out here."

The President warned, however, that the approval of the constitutional amendment "will not, of itself, bring the millennium." The road ahead to rehabilitation and to social justice and prosperity, according to him, is hard and long. "Work and effort," he said, "are now the watchwords of the hour. We have eliminated the legal obstacles. Now we must all unite, forgetting past differences, in a common dedication to the program which the people have approved."

The President on the morning of March 29 left with his family for Baguio to enjoy a well-earned rest during the Holy Week after a hectic month of pro-parity provincial trips, meetings and speeches, treaty-signing ceremonies, and official dinners and receptions.

Two important treaties with the United States of America were signed by the Chief Executive during the month in behalf of the Republic of the Philippines. The first of this treatise provides for the establishment by the United States of military, naval and air bases in the Philippines for a period of 99 years, and the second is military assistance agreement providing for the training and equipping of the Philippine Army through American expert technical assistance and the loan by the United States of arms, ships and other equipment necessary for the armed forces of the Republic.

The bases agreement was signed on the evening of March 14, while the military assistance agreement was signed on the afternoon of March 21. The historic ceremonies, at which the Government of the United States was represented by Ambassador Paul V. McNutt, were held at Malacañan Palace in the presence of witnesses for both governments, including Vice-President Elpidio Quirino, concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of National Defense Ruperto Kangleon, General Rafael Jalandoni and Brigadier General Calixto Duque, Chief and Deputy Chief of Staff, respectively, of the Philippine Army, Philippine Ambassador to the United States Joaquin M. Elizalde, Executive Secretary Emilio Abello, United States Minister Nathaniel Davis, Major General George Moore, Commanding General of PHILRYCOM, and Admiral H. H. Good.



After signing the bases agreement the President issued a statement in which he expressed the firm belief that the pact will not only strengthen the national defense of the country but will also “assure the peace of the Pacific and our own safety simultaneously.” On March 17 he submitted the treaty to the Senate for its approval together with a message in which he explained the circumstances under which the agreement was reached as well as its most important provisions.

The military assistance agreement, according to the President, envisions an integrated plan for the training of the Philippine armed forces with advice of American military experts and for the supply of equipment for these forces from stocks which are considered surplus to American needs. “For a land like ours,” the President said, “which is starting out on its career as a free and independent nation, this grant of both material and training personnel from the United States armed forces is a boon beyond price. Under the terms of this agreement, we grant nothing in return. It is, of course, part and parcel of the intimate relationship existing between our two countries, a relationship based on mutual give-and-take but without measured scrutiny as to the benefits granted us in terms of value received by the United States.”

The signing of this last agreement, taking place as it did on the eve of Ambassador McNutt’s departure for the United States, provided occasion for President Roxas and Ambassador McNutt to exchange expressions of personal and official regard for each other. “I must again express,” the President said, “my gratitude and the gratitude of our people to Ambassador McNutt in this agreement as in the others of the recent past. Ambassador McNutt projected not only the views of his government, but our views as well. He worked ably and tirelessly to secure approval of terms which would meet all of our requirements as well as those of his own country.” He also expressed his own feeling of loss and that of the Filipino people on the departure of the American ambassador.

In a speech delivered after signing the agreement, Ambassador McNutt paid high tribute to President Roxas and other high Philippine government officials for their statesmanship and leadership. “President Roxas,” he said, “inspired leader of his people, has at all times been the mastermind of all the negotiations and arrangements which have been made. His profound gifts of ingenuity and improvisation have enabled him to take the lead in proposing solutions to otherwise knotty and difficult problems.” In concluding he saluted the President as “one of the great leaders of our time.”

Two other treaties concluded with United States of America during the month were the fishery agreement, which was signed on the morning of March 14 by Ambassador McNutt and Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce Mariano Garchitorena, and the consular convention, signed on the evening of the same day by Ambassador McNutt and Vice-President Quirino. The fishery agreement provides for a fishery rehabilitation, development and training program for the Philippines; the consular convention prescribes the organization and functions of the consular service between the two countries.

The Senate of the Philippines at its session on the evening of March 26 ratified by a unanimous vote the treaty on military bases signed on March 14 by President Roxas and Ambassador McNutt.

Upon learning of the ratification the President issued a statement congratulating the leaders and members of the Senate. “I feel he said,” “that the Filipino people can be grateful to the members of the Senate for their patriotic service in this regard, which insures close collaboration with the United States for a period of 99 years, not only for the mutual defense of the Philippines and the United States but also to enable us to cooperate actively in the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.”

The President on March 20 issued an Executive Order (No. 48) creating a Code Commission composed of a Chairman and four Members. The Commission shall revise all existing substantive laws of the Philippines and codify them in conformity with the customs, traditions, and idiosyncracies of the Filipino people and with modern trends in legislation and the progressive principles of law.

In another Executive Order (No. 49) the President fixes the office hours of all government bureaus and offices, including the provincial, city and municipal governments, during the period from April 1 to June 15, 1947, both dates inclusive. Said hours are reduced to five, which shall be from eight o’clock in the morning to one o’clock in

the afternoon. The order, however, provides that arrangement be made so that at least half of the personnel of each department, bureau or office shall observe the regular office hours during the above-mentioned period.

By proclamation (No. 23) the President declared Saturday, April 5, 1947, a special bank holiday at the request of the Manila Clearing House Association.

On March 24 the President signed Republic Act No. 98 prescribing a new scale of salaries allowable for general civil service examinations. According to this new act, first grade eligibles are entitled to receive a minimum salary of P840 a year without any maximum limit. Second grade eligibles are entitled to a minimum salary of P480 and a maximum of P2,400 annually, while third grade eligibles get P360 entrance salary and a maximum of P1,440 annually.

Senior stenographers are assigned P840 minimum annual pay and no maximum limit. Senior typists, junior stenographers, and junior typists are entitled to P480 minimum pay and maximum salaries of P2,760, P2,400 and P1,800 respectively, annually.

President and Mrs. Roxas on the evening of March 14 honored United States Ambassador and Mrs. Paul V. McNutt at a farewell reception and ball at Malacañan Palace.

Ambassador and Mrs. McNutt, with their daughter Louise, left the Philippines by plane on the morning of March 22. The Ambassador was accorded full military honors upon his departure. President and Mrs. Roxas, Vice-President Quirino and high government officials were at the airport to bid to the ambassador and his family goodbye.

Philippine Ambassador to the United States Joaquin M. Elizalde arrived in Manila by plane from the United States on March 15 to report to President Roxas on the favorable reaction of the American people to the approval of parity in the Philippines. After a conference with the President immediately after his arrival, the ambassador told newspapermen that he had deposited at the Philippine National Bank the sum of \$25,000,000 as part of the \$75,000,000 loan solicited by the Philippine government from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation of the United States. He added that the balance of \$50,000,000 is ready for disbursement whenever the Philippine government sees fit to ask for it.

Philippine Delegate to the United States Organization Ambassador Carlos P. Romulo enplaned for the United States on March 19. He was accompanied by Renato Constantino and Leonides Virata, members of his staff.

Ambassador Romulo arrived in Manila last February 20 to report to President Roxas on his activities in the UNO and to help in the pro-parity campaign.

## **President's Month in Review: April, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 4**

**(April 1947)**

President Manuel Roxas on the afternoon of April 18 signed, in behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, a Treaty of Amity with the Republic of China, the second of its kind concluded by the Philippines with a foreign country since it became a republic on July 4, 1946. The first pact of amity signed by the Philippines was with the United States of America.

The signature of the treaty took place at a ceremony at Malacañan in the presence of representatives of the signatory nations. The Republic of China was represented by Chinese Minister Chen Chih-ping. Following the signing of the pact, President Roxas in a brief address remarked that the treaty was an earnest of the steadfast desire of the Filipino people to live in peace and friendship with the people of China. "It offers the assurance," he said, "that any differences of opinion between the two countries will be threshed in the same spirit of mutual tolerance, understanding, and trust which has brought the negotiations for the present treaty to a conclusion equally acceptable to both countries."

Responding to the President's address, Minister Chen declared that the signing of the treaty established on a permanent basis the bond of peace and ties of friendship which have happily long prevailed between the two countries.

On the afternoon of April 15 the President, with Mrs. Roxas and Mrs. Aurora A. Quezon, presided the elaborate ceremonies of the proclamation of the independence of the Philippine Red Cross which took place at the Malacañan grounds. Executive Secretary Emilio Abello read the independence proclamation issued by the President, while the President himself delivered the main address. Mrs. Quezon, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Philippine Red Cross, was the principal participant in the flag ceremony which highlighted the occasion.

In his speech the President said that the independence of the Philippine Red Cross did not in any way mean that it shall be divested of international responsibility and prerogatives. "We are," he said, "a signatory to the Geneva International Red Cross Convention and as such we owe certain international obligations. Knowledge of these international obligations together with our own natural impulses give us the necessary urge to participate actively in all activities looking to relieve suffering everywhere. Mercy, like charity, should begin at home but it must spread its blessings whenever possible without regard to national borders."

Concluding his speech, the President expressed the certainty that the Philippine Red Cross "under the inspired and heroic leadership of its present Chairman Mrs. Manuel L. Quezon, will render even greater service to the people of this war-devastated land."

In a radio address on the eve of the annual homecoming of the Alumni Association of the University of the Philippines on April 19, President Roxas urged his fellow-alumni to join and act together in a movement to facilitate the country's reconstruction. "Our world," he declared, "is moving much too fast to make us happy as mere bystanders and spectators. Either we are active, constructive participants or we are as splintered entities that may be crushed by circumstance into impotence and futility."

The President asked the U.P. alumni in this connection to get rid of the notion that all they need is a government job to get going. "We cannot," he said, "all be on the government payroll. Many of the constructive forces at work today in this country are outside the government, and their rewards are often greater. But to whatever responsibility we are called, inside or outside the government, let us make the most of our opportunities; let us create them where they do not exist, and affirm our capacity to shape our country's destiny and master our own."

Speaking before a crowd of about 10,000 Filipino USAFFE veterans, at the USAFFE Veterans Convention held at the Jai Alai on the morning of April 20, President Roxas, a USAFFE veteran himself, asserted that the members of the USAFFE who fought under the American flag were never disloyal either to the Philippine government or to the United States flag. "We don't commercialize patriotism in the Philippines," he declared, "We do not put a dollar sign to service and devotion to country."

The President paid tribute to the valor and the sacrifice of the USAFFE during the last war. He said that it was his conviction that there is no army in the world that has fought with greater bitterness and devotion in the last war and suffered a greater percentage of casualties than the USAFFE.

The President dwelt at length on the question of the Filipino veterans' rights. He suggested in this connection the sending of a committee to the government and people of the United States to present the case of the USAFFE in the best light possible. He added, however, that in the presentation of the USAFFE'S problems and in the petition for justice there should be no bitterness. "Have confidence," he said, "as I have confidence, in that the American people will do right by us. It may take months, may be a year or two years, but justice will be done if we know how to present our case."

The President on April 24 instructed provincial and municipal treasurers to cash war damage claim checks so as to make it possible for claimants to obtain compensation allowed them by the Philippine War Damage Commission with a minimum of difficulty. Treasurers were also instructed to make certain that all checks have been properly endorsed by the individuals in whose favor the checks were drawn.

President Roxas on April 20 gave at Malacañan a luncheon in honor of Admiral Louis E. Denfeld, Commander in Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet. The guest list included Father Edward Flannagan, of Boys' Town fame, then in Manila enroute to Tokyo, United States Minister Nathaniel Davis, members of the Cabinet, high ranking Philippine and United States army and navy officers.

Vice President and concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs Elpidio Quirino on the evening of April 25 left Manila by plane for the United States and other countries to acquire first-hand knowledge of world conditions. The Vice President will visit the United States at the invitation of the American Government and will be the guest of President Truman at Blair House during his stay in Washington.

President Roxas honored Vice-President Quirino with a farewell luncheon at Malacañan Palace on the day of his departure.

## **President's Month in Review: May, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 5**

#### **(May 1947)**

In a press conference held in Malacañan on May 2, the President said: "I have noticed with satisfaction the interest the people generally are showing in the matter of cleaning the Government of unworthy officials and employees who are guilty of graft and corruption,"

In this conference the Chief Executive reaffirmed his determination, since assuming office, to clean the Government of corrupt personnel, defending at the same time, with all his energies, public functionaries whom he believes to be honest and loyal to the public service.

The Civil Service Board of Appeals, created by Commonwealth Act No. 598, started functioning on May 7. The Board is composed of the Hon. Roman Ozaeta, as Chairman, and the Hon. Emilio Abello and Dr. Rufino Luna, as members. Under Act 598, appeals may be made by any civil service officer or employee concerned against decisions of the Commissioner of the Civil Service or in Administrative investigations to the Civil Service Board of Appeals within thirty days after receipt of the decision.

Upon the death of Judge Jose Lopez Vito, Chairman of the Commission on Elections, the President issued on May 9 a statement extolling the virtues of the judge as "a model of incorruptibility and strict adherence to public duty."

Heeding the clamor of public opinion regarding the congressional investigation of the gambling scandal in Manila, the President appointed Mr. Manuel de la Fuente, president of the Municipal Board of Manila, acting chief of police of the city, vice Lt. Col. Lamberto Jabalera, who was reassigned to the Philippine Army. "I have requested Mr. de la Fuente to accept his assignment," the President said in his statement, "although it involves a great personal sacrifice on his part, for the sake of the people of Manila whom he has served so loyally for many years. I have given Mr. De la Fuente a free hand to reorganize the Police Department subject to the laws governing the same."

The signing of the three agreements between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States to implement provisions of the Philippine Rehabilitation Act was carried out in Malacañan on Monday, May 12, at 4:30 p.m. The agreements cover the maintenance and rehabilitation of the meteorological facilities of the Philippines and the training of the students in air navigation and coast and geodetic survey. Secretary Mariano Garchitorena signed the meteorological agreement and Secretary Ruperto K. Kangleon the air navigation and coast and geodetic survey agreement. Undersecretary Bernabe Africa represented the Department of Foreign Affairs while Charge d' Affaires Nathaniel Davis of the U.S. Embassy signed for the Government of the United States.

The Chief Executive sent a letter to the Congress regarding the grant of leases to private parties who may wish to engage in geological exploration and drilling for oil in the Philippines. The President, because of the urgency of the matter, has certified to the necessity for the immediate adoption of a resolution to this effect.

Upon recommendation of the Philippine Newspapers Guild, Amadeo Dacanay of the Evening News, who had left on a trip to America and Europe, was designated Philippine delegate to the International Organization of Journalists' Conference at Prague to take place on June 3-10, 1947. The President on May 14 instructed Dr. Bernabe Africa, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs, to send Mr. Dacanay's credentials immediately.

On May 16, the President called to a conference at Malacañan about 50 representatives of all fire insurance companies in the Philippines. In this confab the Chief Executive suggested that, in writing new policies, fire insurance companies should place greater emphasis on the moral hazard and in cases of policies now in force, whenever the companies are convinced that the moral hazard has turned out to be weak, to cancel the policy. This suggestion was accepted by all the representatives and they assured him of their full and whole-hearted cooperation.

It was revealed during the conference that the worth of the damage caused by fire last year had reached the alarming figure of P11,000,000 pesos.

At the Lawyers' Convention the President of the Republic delivered an address at the auditorium of the Santo Tomas University on the morning of May 18. The Chief Executive advocated, among other things, the organization of a bar association representing the lawyers of the Philippines which should be instrumental in helping the Government in the selection of the ablest and most honest members of the bar for positions in the judiciary. He also reminded the conventionists that under the law and jurisprudence they were officers of the courts.

An air tragedy unparalleled in the history of aviation in the Philippines took place on May 18, when the Philippine Presidential plane "Lili Marlene" crashed against Mount Makaturing near Dansalan, Mindanao. The wreckage was sighted by a searching Philippine Army plane a week after the plane had taken off from Buayan, Cotabato, for Dansalan, Lanao, Hon. Rafael R. Alunan and Judge Francisco Zulueta of the NLSA and others abroad. The President was kept informed of developments during the search.

This grim tragedy snuffed out the lives of men who might have been able to help the Philippines on the road to rehabilitation and reconstruction.

May 28 marked the first anniversary of the assumption of office of President Manuel A. Roxas. Messages of congratulations were received by the Chief Executive extolling the accomplishments of the Administration. Ex-President Sergio Osmeña was the first to congratulate the President who was deeply touched by such a message of goodwill. "Any success I have attained is due entirely to the support of the people of our country and particularly of citizens like you who have given me encouragement and cooperation," stated the President in his reply to the former President.

On May 30, at 11 a.m., President Roxas delivered a speech at the Philippine Sea Frontier on the occasion of the celebration of Memorial Day. "To those who died on Philippine soil, first, to defend our nation against treacherous aggression, later, to liberate our land from the clutches of a cruel enemy, the Filipino people are particularly indebted" he said, "A billion prayers ride upon her (America's) inspired leadership. It is an historic mission, a holy crusade, a challenge to achieve a people's peace. She cannot shirk that responsibility. She will not fail, if she dares to assume it. God will be on her side."

## **President's Month in Review: June, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 6**

**(June 1947)**

Accepting an offer made by the Philippine Youth Leaders' League, President Manuel A. Roxas became an honorary president of this civic organization. Vice-President Elpidio Quirino is another honorary president of the League, having accepted similar offer from the organization before leaving for the United States recently.

In accepting the honorary presidency, President Roxas assured the members of the League of "his interest and cooperation in the promotion of its worthy objective—to help develop a useful, alert, responsible, and public-spirited citizenry."

In a conference held at Malacañan on June 9 with some 200 representatives of the local lumber industry, President Roxas asked the lumber men to keep the retail prices of lumber for local market as reasonable as possible, and stressed the Government's desire to help the people in constructing their homes.

Speaking on the exportation of lumber, the President said that veterans and small loggers who have no sawmills and logging equipment will be allowed to export lumber only to the extent and amount necessary for the purchase of equipment from the United States and other countries.

A formal transfer of the lots and buildings at Lepanto Street was signed on June 10 between James McInnes Henderson, Philippine Alien Property Administrator, and the President of the Republic. The Chief Executive made a token payment of P3 pesos to Administrator Henderson for the three separate properties which are presently occupied by the House of Representatives.

Present at the signing of the transfer were U.S. Minister Nathaniel P. Davis, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Bernabe Africa, E. D. Hester of the American Embassy, W. P. Cochran of the Alien Property Administration and Executive Secretary Emilio Abello.

"I am very happy to learn of the appointment of your Excellency as ambassador to the Philippines," began the radiogram of President Manuel A. Roxas to Ambassador Emmet O'Neal on the occasion of the confirmation by the U.S. Senate on June 12 of the latter's appointment. The President, in his message, expressed high hopes that his efforts to promote most intimate and cordial relations between the Philippine and American Republics would be successfully consummated during Ambassador O'Neal's incumbency.

Another transfer of several pieces of property in the hands of the Alien Property Administrator was affected on June 17. The aggregate value of the properties involved in the deal amounted to about P6,500. Among the properties thus transferred to the Philippine Republic are a lot and two-story building now occupied by the Bureau of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission. The two-story house at 171 Gastambide will be used by the Government as a hospital for undernourished children.

These transfers were made pursuant to the provisions of the Philippine Property Act of 1946, which provides for the transfer of enemy properties or proceeds thereof to the Republic of the Philippines.

President Manuel A. Roxas wished the delegation of Philippine Boy Scouts godspeed in a fitting ceremony held on the morning of June 12 at Malacañan on the occasion of the departure of the delegation for Moisen, France, to attend the Sixth World Jamboree of Boy Scouts. The delegation is composed of 32 outstanding Filipino Boy Scouts and Scout Leaders selected throughout the Philippines. The Chief Executive told them to try to prove to the world that the Filipino Boy Scout can take his place side by side with any other boy scout in the world. A silk Filipino flag was handed by the President to Scoutmaster Gerardo Flores to be presented to President Vincent Auriol of the French Republic upon the arrival of the Filipino delegation in Paris.

Working up to midnight of June 21, the deadline allowed him by law to act on bills passed in the last session of Congress, President Roxas vetoed 12 measures, allowed 11 to lapse, and signed 98 bills. Among the bills vetoed was the controversial rental bill. In its place the President issued Executive Order No. 62, which regulates rentals for houses and lots for residential buildings.

“In my opinion,” the President said in disapproving the bill, “the only effective way of dealing with the measure is for the Government to fix a definite rate of rental which may be charged based on the current assessed value of the property and to make it illegal and punishable to charge a higher rate.”

President Roxas cordially received a group of visiting American government, business, and newspaper dignitaries on the morning of June 23 at Malacañan Palace.

Extending his welcome to the distinguished visitors, the President said: “I am very happy to welcome you to the Philippines. I do not know whether to welcome you as members of the newspaper profession or as Argonauts of the air... I trust that you will find Manila the one spot in the East where the American spirit and ideals are alive.”

During the conference between the President and the American visitors, various problems of vital significance to the Philippines were brought up. The Chief Executive enlightened the visitors on the progress of the infant Republic by giving them a general survey of the accomplishments of his Administration.



**President's Month in Review: July, 1947**

## **President's Month in Review: August, 1947**

**OG Vol. 43 No. 8**

**(August 1947)[1]**

The celebration of the first anniversary of the Republic of the Philippines was the most significant event of the month. It was featured by a grand parade representing different branches of the Government and various social and educational institutions.

At the grandstand on the historic Luneta, the President, after the colorful parade had passed in review before the dignitaries present, delivered his anniversary address to the nation. The whole Filipino nation reverently heard the solemn pronouncements of the President over the radio. The President declared that whatever the Republic of the Philippines has done in the first year of its existence was opened and subjected to criticism by some quarters. "We have not bartered away the smallest particle of that sovereignty for any material or other consideration," he said.

The President was enthusiastically applauded by the crowd when, in the course of his speech, he mentioned the freedom of the press in the Philippines. "Our people," he said, "enjoy freedom of speech and of the press, in a measure unsurpassed in any other country of the world. Here the press or any individual may indulge in the bitterest criticisms against the Government and its highest officials without fear and without sanction."

The delivery of 84 ships of the United States Navy to the Republic of the Philippines was featured by simple ceremonies aboard the Minesweeper No. 281 on July 9. These ships will form the nucleus of the future Philippine Navy.

President Manuel Roxas attended the ceremony accompanied by the members of his cabinet together with President Avelino of the Senate. Admiral H. H. Good, in behalf of the U.S. Navy, said that to an insular nation like the Philippines a naval patrol is necessary. "Navies are not all for war. Their peacetime mission is to mount guard and to further the ideals of liberty, independence, justice, and democracy."

President Roxas requested Nathaniel P. Davis, Charge d' Affaires of the U.S. Embassy, to transmit to President Truman the gratitude of the Philippine Government and people for the transfer of the ships.

Vice-President Elpidio Quirino arrived in the afternoon of July 15 from the world-circling tour. He was received warmly and was given a most elaborate welcome by high officials of the Government and social dignitaries despite the bad weather. Amidst the jubilant reception of his countrymen, the Vice-President said: "I had to leave the country to reaffirm my faith in our future." President Roxas welcomed the home-coming Vice-President.

The next day a State Dinner was given in his honor by the President at Malacañan. The guest list included the Vice-President, the Senate President, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, members of the Cabinet, members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of both Houses of Congress, and accredited diplomatic representatives of the Philippines.

On July 20 President Manuel Roxas held a long conference with Charles W. Lee, manager of the Philippine Consolidated Shipyards, and officers of the Shipyards Workers Union, to help iron out the differences resulting from the strike of the Engineer Island Laborers. The 3,600 Engineer Island workers came to Malacañan to present their problems to the President. The Chief Executive told the officials of the workers' Union that the U.S. Army was sympathetic with the laborers and that the Philippine Government had the utmost desire to help the laborers who were thrown out of work, but it would be difficult to find immediate work for 3,600 men.

The President counseled the workers to have faith in the Philippine Government and in the U.S. Army and assured them that as materials became available, the unemployed would be given work in government construction projects.

The National Convention of the Liberal Party was held in the gymnasium of the University of Santo Tomas where the party leaders heard President Manuel Roxas. The President did not fail to recognize that “men and women have equal opportunities in the public service and [that he] shall not permit the female sex to be barred from holding any public office.”

He called the attention of the delegates to the fact that this was the first time that any political party in the Philippines or perhaps in the world had given such recognition to women. This was in connection with the nomination of a lady candidate for the Senatorial race. He made also emphatic his belief that the country needed a loyal opposition, just as it needed a strong majority.

In view of the extremely long proceedings attendant to the nominations for senatorial candidates of the majority party, the President was not able to deliver his speech until 1:04 that day.

President Roxas sent a radiogram to President Truman expressing his sympathy upon the death of President Truman’s mother.

President Roxas’ message follows: “Allow me, in behalf of my people, my family and my own, to express the deepest sympathy upon the passing of your beloved mother. We share the grief of every man for the loss of the good mother of a great statesman, an outstanding world leader, and a true American. We pray to God to receive her in His bosom.”

## **President's Month in Review: September, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 9**

**(September 1947)**

Since the United States is the only nation whose flag does not follow her investments and which, therefore, can compete with practically every nation of the world, politically and economically, the Philippines can serve in the Far East as a sort of broadcasting station for American principles, American altruism and noble ideas, President Manuel Roxas told a group of visiting prominent newspapermen headed by Editors Walker Stone and Marshall N. Dana at a conference in Malacañan on August 1.

Declaring that the Government will give equal opportunities to all parties participating in the coming November elections for national and local officials, the President in a letter to Senator Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr., president of the Nacionalista party, under date of August 4, promised the minority chief that the minority party would be given free time at the Government radio Station KZFM to campaign for its candidates, with the only condition that no personal attacks would be allowed the speakers using the broadcasting station, regardless of whether they be Nacionalista or Liberal partymen.

At the celebration of the second anniversary of V-J Day on August 14, President Roxas in a message stated that the Philippines is well on the road toward national recovery. Concluding his message, the President said: "Conscious of our historic destiny in this part of the world, we are marching forward to erect in our country a true monument to the ideals of freedom and progress for which we fought in the war and which are the priceless goals of America, not only for herself, but for all the nations of the earth. In this task, I am sure we will not fail."

In connection with the celebration of the 69<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, a public parade was held on August 18 at Quezon City led by the U.S. Army band. Other participants were the Philippine Army, the UST ROTC Units, the police forces of the cities of Manila and Quezon, and other civic organizations. President Roxas arrived at the grandstand while the parade was on the march. He was accompanied by Mrs. Roxas, who after the ceremony planted the "Quezon Tree" in front of the City Hall. A Quezon Memorial Program was also broadcast at night over Station KZPI with Vice-President Quirino as principal speaker.

On August 18, President Roxas issued an executive order organizing ten regular municipalities in Cotabato, Mindanao. In issuing the order, the President said: "I have made a careful study of the conditions prevailing in the specially-organized provinces and I have reached the conclusion that it is not advisable at the present time to authorize the election of all elective officials. The reason which has impelled me to reach this conclusion is chiefly the large number of firearms which are still in the hands of unauthorized persons in those localities."

During the deliberations on the government reorganization plan held on the night of August 21, President Roxas told Internal Revenue Collector Bibiano L. Meer that he was waiting for "big shots" to be brought to the courts for evading tax payments amounting to P50,000 or more each. The President's desire to have the agents of the law go after moneyed but delinquent taxpayers was expressed during the discussion devoted mainly to the overhauling of the Department of Finance.

Answering charges coming from certain quarters the Administration is lukewarm to the plan of promoting Tagalog as the national language, President Roxas during the meeting with his advisers on government reorganization on the night of August 30, declared: "I am interested in the work of the Institute of National Language and in the propagation of the national language; so much so that I want its work coordinated with that of our schools." The President countered that he has been delivering speeches in Tagalog to give the people an example of a public official's interest in the national language. Recently he has appointed a director and an executive secretary of the Institute of National Language.

## **President's Month in Review: October, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 10**

**(October 1947)**

In a conference with President Roxas on September 2, the Board of Governors of the Manila Stock Exchange promised to cooperate with the administration in maintaining a stable and conservative stock market in the Philippines. The members of the Board of Governors who visited Malacañan were: Pacifico Ledesma, president; Santiago Picornell, vice-president; Anselmo Trinidad, secretary; A. C. Hall, treasurer; and Dee K. Chiong, assistant treasurer.

On the occasion of the 69<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary of former President Sergio Osmeña, September 9, President Roxas was among the first to congratulate the old statesman of Cebu.

"I am sure that the people of the Philippines share my happiness on every recurring anniversary of your birthday for they cannot forget the enduring benefits which they have derived from your patriotic services," the President said in his message.

Because of an unavoidable delay in the repair of the Orchid which had hit a sunken ship in Manila Bay resulting in the damage of its propellers, President Roxas and his party purchased round-trip tickets on the steamer Moleño which left Manila in the afternoon of September 10.

The principal purpose of the Presidential trip to the South was to investigate the condition of the big Japanese holdings in Davao, especially the Furukawa and Ohta plantations.

The arrival of the Presidential party in Zamboanga coincided with the celebration of Arbor Day, September 13. In the afternoon President Roxas decorated Captain Fred Behans with a Military Medal for meritorious service rendered during the occupation as a secret agent on a mission in the Philippines after he had debarked from a submarine at Santiago Cove in Ilocos Sur.

Vigorously answering one of the placards in Davao on his arrival in that city on September 14, President Roxas declared that such threats would never scare him but if given the alternative between Liberal votes and the development of the abaca industry, he would prefer the latter without the slightest vacillation.

President Roxas cautioned the people against the alarming decrease in the abaca production of the country. He pointed out that, while before the war 720,000 bales of abaca were produced, now our output is only 290,000 bales.

Before a crowd of 20,000 Mohammedan Filipinos in Parang, Cotabato, President Roxas urged the people's support to bring about prosperity and peace and order. The Presidential party arrived at the place at 2 o'clock in the afternoon of September 16, and was met by large delegation headed by Senator Pendatun, Governor Datu Udtug Matalam, Datu Sinsuat, Datu Ugalingan Piang, and Judge Juan Sarenas.

The President assured the people of Cotabato that the province would elect its own governor when it becomes a regular one. He was elated to learn that peace and order conditions in Cotabato were perfect, in sharp contrast to the situation in Central Luzon.

United States Ambassador Emmet O' Neal presented his letter of credence to President Roxas in a ceremony in Malacañan Palace at exactly 4 o'clock p.m. on September 22. It was the first meeting of the two high dignitaries. The brief ceremony marked the official accreditation of O'Neal as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Philippine Republic.

In receiving the U.S. envoy, President Roxas declared that the American Government will find the Filipino people always ready to cooperate in all the efforts of the United States toward the realization of peace, liberty and happiness for all the peoples of the world.

The signing of the Philippine-Spanish treaty of friendship was held in Malacañan on September 27. President Roxas signed for the Republic, and Minister Teodomiro Aguilar for Spain.

“Today, Spain and the Philippines,” the President said, “standing on a plane of absolute equality and in the enjoyment and the exercise of their respective rights of sovereignty, extend their hands to each other with their hearts in them, so to speak, and conclude a pact of friendship, not in the way Sikatuna and Legaspi did, pitting cunning against strength but in response to those noble impulses which alone can inspire friendship, loftiness of purpose, mutual respect, and the desire to do each other good.”

After investigating the cases of conflict of jurisdiction between Malacañan and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents on one side and the Manila Police Department on the other, President Roxas, on September 30, ordered that the jurisdiction of the Manila Police Department on all police matters within the City of Manila be recognized and respected.

The President instructed the NBI agents not to arrest any member of the Manila Police Department without the knowledge and consent of the Chief of Police, except when they commit crimes in their presence.

## **President's Month in Review: November, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 11**

#### **(November 1947)**

PRESIDENT Roxas signed on the night of October 4 two executive orders, the first one reorganizing the different executive departments, bureaus, offices and agencies of the Government of the Republic and the second one pertaining to national enterprises operated by the Government.

In streamlining the government offices, the primary objective of the President is to give the low-salaried employees a better deal by raising the lowest basic pay to the minimum of P50 a month, which in turn is to be raised annually until it reaches the minimum of P80 a month.

“As a consequence of our transition from the Commonwealth to the Republic, and because of the many circumstances arising from the aftermath of the last global war, the Government of the Philippines had to be recognized in order that it might respond more readily to the needs of the times and serve with the utmost efficiency the interest and welfare of the Filipino people,” said the President.

On October 7, a delegation of over 300 tenants of the Tuazon estate in Sta Mesa was received by the President in Malacañan. Those tenants were being evicted from the land they occupy at present and had decided to appeal to the Chief Executive for help. They were assured that the administration is ever ready to help them.

The President called Mayor Valeriano Fugoso and Faustino Aguilar, head of the Rural Progress Administration, to study ways and means to help the tenants who have been unable to pay for the land in question and, for this reason, are being threatened with eviction.

On the occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Republic of China, October 10, President Roxas sent a radiogram to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, President of the Chinese Republic, expressing the most cordial felicitations of the Government and people of the Philippines.

In another radiogram sent to Secretary of Finance Miguel Cuaderno, the President accepted the invitation of the Secretary General of the United Nations to address the opening session of the ECAFE to be held on November 24 in Baguio. The invitation was extended to the President of the Republic of the Philippines by Mr. P. S. Lokanathan, executive secretary of the ECAFE, through Secretary of Finance Miguel Cuaderno.

In a little section of Corregidor on the occasion of the ceremonies which marked the formal transfer of this fortress to the Republic of the Philippines on October 12, the President, after paying high tribute to the gallantry of the men who fought and died at Corregidor, said:

“The transfer of this island fortress to the Republic of the Philippines is the fulfillment of a pledge made by the United States. It is significant that this tiny piece of our territory, emblazoned in the memory of millions of Americans and dear to them because of the role they played in our struggles during the last war, should be graciously returned to us by the free will of the American people. The Philippine Republic appreciates this noble act of renunciation. It strengthens our confidence in America and tightens the bonds of friendship which link this Republic to her.”

Declaring that the members of the police force of the City of Manila do not receive today the salaries or emoluments that they should get considering the importance of their work, President Roxas in an address on October 17 before the police organization and guests gathered at the program on the occasion of the decoration of certain members of the force for meritorious services, expressed the hope that the city government will increase the salaries of policemen as soon as its finances permit.

The term of office of the labor representative to the Board of Directors of the Manila Railroad is two years as fixed by the President in a conference with the delegation of employees from the Manila Railroad Brotherhood Association held in Malacañan on October 20. The delegation was received by the President, who listened to their petition for a definition of the term of office of their representative to the M. R. R. Board of Directors.

On October 28, the President in an order to the Commissioner of Civil Service instructed him that the Philippine War Veterans and their widows be given preference in connection with civil service examinations in this wise: for veterans who have not been disabled, 5 points; and for disabled veterans whose disability has not rendered them totally unfit for appropriate service in the Government, 10 points.



## **President's Month in Review: December, 1947**

### **OG Vol. 43 No. 12**

#### **(December 1947)**

Stating that the Filipino people cannot be proud of their democracy when elections are marred by threats, coercion, and bloodshed, President Manuel A. Roxas on the eve of the general elections on November 10, appealed to all contending parties to make the balloting event as peaceful as possible.

The President cast his vote in the last general elections at the precinct on Batangas Street near the residence of Judge Mamerto Roxas, his brother. Voting with him also were Mrs. Roxas, their children, Gerardito and Ruby, and the Presidential aides-de-camp.

On November 11, on the occasion of the celebration of Armistice Day, the Chief Executive attended the American Legion dinner at the Army and Navy club. "The ideals of the generation of peace were written large upon the minds of living men," the President said. "The recollection of the bloody holocaust were too vivid and clear-cut to be effaced in the memory of their children. But the flowering of those ideals did not give way to full fruition and the swords instead of being beaten into ploughshares were raised in violent anger again within the short span of twenty-three years."

On November 16, President Manuel A. Roxas sent a telegram to all provincial governors to submit reports on election returns to the Commission on Elections as quickly as possible to avoid suspicion of manipulation. On the same date, a wire was rushed to all provincial treasurers instructing them to send their reports immediately to the Commission on Elections without waiting for each municipality to complete its returns, with a warning that those found guilty of delaying the relay of returns would be punished.

With U. S. Ambassador Emmet O'Neal present, the President on November 22 attended the party given him by the War Damage Commission at the latter's compound on the former site of Estado Mayor on Arroceros Street. In a brief extemporaneous speech the President praised the efficiency of the Commission officials and personnel but blamed the law for the delay in the payment of war damages.

Addressing the opening session of the ECAFE convention at 3:30 p. m. on November 24, held in Baguio, President Manuel A. Roxas obliquely warned the United Nations that abandonment of Asian and other Far Eastern peoples is dangerous to world peace.

"It is, indeed, an inspiring example of intelligent and constructive international collaboration," he declared, referring to the ECAFE. "It proves that in the new world we are trying to build, men of different countries, colors, and creeds can gather as friends and associates to work out solutions to their common problems."

On the occasion of the golden sacerdotal jubilee of the Most Reverend Michael J. O'Doherty, Archbishop of Manila, on November 28, President Manuel A. Roxas sent a telegram of felicitations to His Grace.

In the message the President conveyed his warmest congratulations to the Catholic Prelate for the great achievement made during his sacerdotal service, an achievement which, "when measured by the number of men and women who have found greater spiritual comfort, peace and happiness because they are among the members of your flock, is beyond the power of living man to estimate."

President and Mrs. Manuel Roxas at the celebration of National Heroes Day, November 30, offered wreaths in honor of the country's heroic dead. The Presidential wreaths were placed at the Manuel Quezon tomb, the Rizal monument, the Bataan cemetery, the Bonifacio monument, Fort Santiago, the Capas National Cemetery, the United States cemetery, and the Veteranos de la Revolucion mausoleum at the Cementerio del Norte.



## President's Month in Review: January, 1948

### The Official Month in Review

AT the cabinet meeting hold in Baguio on December 3, President Manuel A. Roxas requested the Secretary of Justice to take steps for the training of men under the National Bureau of Investigation, who will be specially detailed to the work of watching the conduct of government officials, to avoid graft and irregularities in the Government. The President reiterated his determination to go after dishonest officials and employees, not only in the National Government but also in local governments and in the government corporations.

EXPRESSING the hope that the U. S. Congress will approve the veterans' rights bill soon, the President in his statement on December 9, said that he had proposed to the U. S. Congress the inclusion of a provision for hospitalization of sick and disabled Philippine veterans and that he had made a formal request to the United States to build four hospitals in the Philippines. Those hospitals would be located in Manila, in Baguio, in the Visayas, and in Mindanao. The veterans would be charged P6 daily, the amount to be paid by the U. S. Veterans Administration.

ON December 11, President Roxas and representatives of the sugar industry met at the Baguio Country Club and took steps regarding the offer of SCAP to purchase all the sugar that can be produced and exported during the 1947-1948 milling season.

While SCAP's need for sugar may not be fully filled, it was learned that sugar men might be able to pool together about 150,000 short tons of raw sugar for shipment to Japan next year. This quantity would represent about one-third of the crop this season. To obtain this quantity, a syndicate of sugar millers was created representing all Philippine sugar centrals.

PRESIDENT Roxas ordered on December 17 the suspension from the service of Francisco Roma, municipal treasurer of Oquendo, Samar, who had been charged with violation of the Election Law for having asked the election inspectors of the town to sign in blank the returns of different election precincts a few days before election day. At the same time, the President requested Secretary of Justice Roman Ozaeta to direct the Provincial Fiscal of Samar immediately to gather evidence and to prosecute said officer. The order of suspension was coursed through the Department of Finance.

"CHRISTMAS comes again with the all-embracing cheer that animates the spirit of man," said the President in a Christmas message issued on December 24.

"We in the Philippines are fortunate to have such a beautiful tradition and established custom of propagating cheerfulness with the coming of Christmas. . . We are now faced with the task of putting our shoulders together and working hand in hand in brotherly fashion," he declared.

On Christmas Eve the President extended executive clemency to 84 insular prisoners, in keeping with the traditional prerogative of the Chief Executive. The records of the fortunate prisoners had been reviewed minutely by the President.

President Roxas and his family celebrated Christmas Eve with a quiet dinner in Malacañan Palace and later heard a midnight mass of the Nativity in a special chapel set up at the Palace reception hall.

The President and his family spent Christmas Day in keeping with the spirit of the occasion; a quiet family reunion in the morning and a special luncheon in celebration of the religious feast. Early in the afternoon, he received callers and later he took his first real rest after a week of official grind.

*(See the full text of the President's message wider "HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS" in this issue.)*

IN a press statement on December 26, the President declared that the Philippines could now depend on its basic food resources because of the greatly expanded agricultural resources. The Government had about 1,000,000 cavans of rice in reserve which would be offered by the NARIC in the market at any time to counteract speculative and profiteering tendencies on the grain. Even in Central Luzon, where there have been reports of disturbances by dissident elements, the President observed during his trip from Baguio to Manila that the harvest has been bountiful and that piles of grain are ready for warehousing.

RIZAL Day celebration on December 30 was begun by President Roxas who laid a huge floral wreath at the foot of Rizal monument at the Luneta early in the morning. The Chief Executive was accompanied by Mrs. Roxas and the Presidential aides. After the floral offering made in the presence of the cabinet members and other high government officials and Knights of Rizal, the President motored to Fort Santiago to view the cell where Rizal spent his last hour before meeting death. Later on he returned to the grandstand at the Luneta to view the civic parade.

The orator of the occasion was Vice-President Elpidio Quirino.

*(See the full text of the President's message and of the speech of Vice-President Elpidio Quirino under "HISTORICAL PAPERS And DOCUMENTS" in this issue.)*

**Source: National Library of the Philippines**

## **President's Month in Review: February, 1948**

### **The Official Month in Review**

MEMBERS of officialdom, representatives of foreign governments, friends and admirers streamed into Malacañan Palace to felicitate President Roxas on his 56th birthday on January first and wish him continued success in his administration in the New Year.

One of the important messages of felicitation received by the President came from former President Sergio Osmeña in Cebu. "I join our people in cordially felicitating you and wishing you many more years of happiness and success," said Osmeña.

IN a talk before members of the Cabinet and key government functionaries at a luncheon at Malacañan on January 5, President Roxas scored the practice of rumor-mongers who spread allegations about graft and irregularities but have not come forward to file formally their charges with proofs.

"I realize and I must admit that there are some officials of the Government who probably have betrayed their trust," said President Roxas. "I appeal to each and every one of you to help me, and by helping me to expose those men, high or low, so that we may take proper measures against them. Our credit is being affected by circulation of these unsubstantiated rumors."

"I REFUSE to deal with Taruc or any other bandit," was the statement the President made in Baguio on January 13, flatly rejecting a reported demand from Luis Taruc for a "surrenderless mediation." The chief Executive was explicit in his determination not to allow the Government to enter into any compromise, but he added that the Government will pursue its avowed policy towards dissidents that it drafted sometime ago.

PRESIDENT Roxas, addressing the members of the Council of State on January 20, declared that the administration had committed itself to the task of gradually attaining a reasonable economic security for the Filipino people, and that with this goal in mind, he would propose before Congress the enactment of important measures designed to round out the economic development of the country.

The Council of State for about four hours discussed all problems which the President intended to take up with the Congress in his "State of the Nation" address.

EXCLAIMING that the period of appeasement had ended, President Roxas announced in clear-cut fashion his administration policy in an extemporaneous speech before the convention of provincial governors and city mayors held in the session hall of the House of Representatives during its opening session on January 22, 1948.

The President struck by the fact that while the Huks claimed to be the champions of the masses and the down-trodden, the government records of murders, kidnappings and rapine show that the farmers and the poor were the victims.

APPEARING before a joint session of the Congress at four o'clock on January 26, President Roxas issued an appeal against wasting energies in partisan conflict or in an attempt to gain personal advantage while the country is engaged in the all-consuming task of lifting the Republic from the ashes of war.

"We are still far away," said the President, "from our chosen goals. But we are decidedly on our way. I assure you we are treading on firm ground and marching in the right direction. We are following paths which the experience of nations has proven to be safe and reliable. We are attempting no short-cuts."

BEFORE a press conference President Roxas, on the night of January 28, proclaimed full and complete amnesty to all political and economic collaborators. The President would send to the Congress a special message regarding the amnesty proclamation, which requires the approval of the majority of the members of both Houses of Congress.

After a long wait, President Roxas declared that he finally became convinced that the time had arrived for him to finally resolve the issue in response to the clear mandate of the people.

*Source:* **National Library of the Philippines**

## **President's Month in Review: March, 1948**

### **The Official Month in Review**

ACTING ON REPORTS linking PC agents with the kidnap-murder of Manuel-Joven, CLO Secretary, President Roxas on March 3 ordered Secretary of the Interior Jose Zulueta to conduct a rigid investigation of the matter.

In his letter to Secretary Zulueta, the President ordered him to take quick and drastic action against any member of the Philippine Constabulary who might have participated in the case.

The President also wanted to find out "why the Philippine Constabulary has not reported that the alleged murder car had been hired and paid for by the PC headquarters."

A SYSTEM of compulsory social insurance for employees in government and private offices is embodied in a proposed administration measure in line with President Roxas' recommendation in his "state of the nation" message to Congress.

The draft of the social security bill was completed on March 4 by the committee appointed by the President for this purpose.

It is stated in the explanatory note that more than any other measure so far undertaken by the Government, this bill will translate into tangible form the principle of social justice enunciated in our Constitution.

THE "HUKBALAHAP" and the "Pambansang Kaisahan ng mga Magbubukid" (PKM) were outlawed by President Roxas in his press statement issued on March 6.

The President said that there are definite proofs showing a tie-up between the Hukbalahap and Chinese communists in the Philippines. The Hukbalahap and the PKM are illegal associations organized and maintained to commit acts of sedition and other crimes, seeking to overthrow the government by ousting the duly elected officials and putting themselves in power through force and intimidation.

"It also means", added the President, "that any person voluntarily giving assistance or cooperation to these organizations, or in any way giving them aid or comfort will likewise be prosecuted. This declaration will also serve to instruct every peace officer to bring about the arrest of leaders and members of these organizations."

*(See full text of President's Press Statement under "HISTORICAL PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS" in this issue.)*

PRESIDENT Roxas has directed the People's Homesite Corporation to rush the plans for the construction of houses for government employees and laborers. In the meeting held on March 7, the Government Enterprises Council was apprised of the President's eagerness to provide government personnel in the low income brackets with cheap, comfortable, and modern little homes which they could own after a few years.

Besides these homes, the Government contemplates to construct houses for public school teachers all over the country. This project was approved by the cabinet on the same date.

WHILE resting in Baguio, President Roxas outlined a definite legislative schedule for effecting urgent army reforms, after a long conference with representatives of three groups working on compromise plans in the afternoon of March 12.

AFTER being informed of the news, President Roxas hailed Secretary Marshall's endorsement of the Rogers bill for Filipino veterans. The Rogers bill, now pending in the US Congress, would grant more benefits to the Filipino veterans than any available heretofore, the President said.

AFTER the meeting of the cabinet held on March 19, President Roxas announced that employees and laborers whether permanent or temporary, in all corporations owned or controlled by the Government, who are not at present entitled to vacation and sick leaves, will be granted 15 days vacation leave and another 15 days sick leave for every year of continuous, faithful and satisfactory service. The order is effective as of July 1, 1947.

President Roxas also announced that he desires to have these privileges extended to all unclassified employees and laborers in the regular bureaus, offices, agencies, and other branches of the Government, including those of the provincial, city and municipal units who are not at present entitled to vacation and sick leaves under the existing law. However, as such grant of privileges would require legislation, the matter will be brought to the Congress.

PRESIDENT Roxas and the First Lady spent a quiet Easter. With the members of his family the President heard the Regular Easter mass in Malacañan chapel said by Rev. Father Guese, chaplain of the Presidential Guards. Following the service, President Roxas and his family took a simple breakfast and later he went to Malacañan Park across Pasig River and played golf with his usual golf links "buddies", including Secretary Garchitorena, Jose Yulo, Ernesto Rufino, Luis de Leon, J. Amado Araneta and others.

*Source:* **National Library of the Philippines**



## **President's Month in Review: April, 1948**

### **The Official Month in Review**

PRESIDENT Manuel A. Roxas died at 10:10 o'clock on April 15 at Clark Field, where he had gone earlier in the afternoon to inspect the installations of the 13th U. S. Air Force.

He passed away at the residence of Major General Eugene L. Eubank where he was taken after he had suffered a stroke following a speech he had delivered before the officers and men of the 13th Air Force.

VICE PRESIDENT Elpidio Quirino, who was on tour of the Visayas, was notified of the President's death by radio on the coastguard "Anemone". The Vice President hurried back to Manila on learning of the President's fate. Honorable Elpidio Quirino, shortly after his arrival, was sworn into office by Acting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Ricardo Paras. His Excellency Elpidio Quirino became the second President of the Republic of the Philippines.

"The passing of President Manuel A. Roxas is a loss hard to bear. He was my dear friend and beloved chief. As first President of the Philippine Republic, he was the architect of this new nation and no one can replace him. Although called upon to continue his patriotic labors, I doubt if my frail shoulders can carry the grave responsibilities. I only hope that God and our good people will give me sufficient strength and courage to carry on." Thus was the statement of President Quirino upon being impressed that, because of the death of President Roxas, he is called upon to assume the responsibilities as Chief Executive of the nation.

IN deference to the memory of President Roxas whose remains lie in state at Malacanan, President Quirino on April 17, declared the period from April 17 to May 17, as period of national mourning during which flags of all government buildings and installations throughout the Philippines are flown at half mast.

REEXAMINATION by the Government of the Roxas Huk declaration in order to make its implementation conform more closely to public opinion was indicated by President Quirino in his first press conference held at Malacañan on April 20.

President Quirino stated that the declaration by President Roxas outlawing the Huks and PKM as seditious organizations was a delicate question and refused to make any definite announcement of the step he would take on the matter.

"I did not come to deliver a speech. I come to deliver the goods," President Elpidio Quirino told the municipal officials of La Paz, Tarlac, who asked him if he wished to address the townfolks who had gathered around upon learning that the President was their unexpected visitor.

WITH a minimum military escort and bodyguard the President on April 29, made a surprise inspection trip to four Huk-infested provinces; namely, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Bulacan. The motor trip covered 298 kilometers. It passed the Huk corridor to the mountain across the Zaragoza-La Paz dirt road. The President's car displayed the presidential flag throughout the trip.

*Source:* **University of the Philippines, College of Law Library**